

Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



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## Contents

### Addresses and Remarks

*See also* Appointments and Nominations  
Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards—428  
Maryland  
    Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt—433  
    Roundtable discussion at the White House Leadership Conference on Youth, Drug Use, and Violence in Greenbelt—438  
Memorial Service at the Embassy of Israel—424  
Michigan  
    Community in Taylor—403  
    Democratic luncheon in Detroit—410  
Middle East peace process—431  
National Association of Counties—416  
People of Israel—423  
People of the Middle East—446  
Radio address—401  
Terrorist attacks in Israel—402, 409

### Appointments and Nominations

White House Office, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, remarks—426

### Communications to Congress

Budget deferral and rescissions, message transmitting—425  
Cyprus, letter transmitting report—445  
Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee, message transmitting report—425  
International agreements, letter transmitting report—446  
Iran, message transmitting notice—448

### Communications to Congress—Continued

Iraq, letter reporting—430

### Executive Orders

Adding the Small Business Administration to the President's Export Council—430

### Interviews With the News Media

Exchanges with reporters  
    Oval Office—431  
    South Lawn—402  
    Taylor, MI—409

### Meetings With Foreign Leaders

Jordan, King Hussein—431

### Notices

Continuation of Iran Emergency—447

### Proclamations

National Park Week—448

### Statements by the President

National economy—447  
President's Council on Sustainable Development, report—446  
Representative Sam Gibbons' decision not to seek reelection—415  
Terrorist attack in Israel—403  
White House Conference on Aging, report—429

### Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—450  
Checklist of White House press releases—450  
Digest of other White House announcements—449  
Nominations submitted to the Senate—449

**Editor's Note:** The President was in Los Angeles, CA, on March 8, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, March 8, 1996

**The President's Radio Address**

*March 2, 1996*

Good morning. Something remarkable happened this week, something that can forever help parents, children, and anybody who cares about what our children watch on television. We took an enormous step toward controlling the images of violence and vice that can enter our homes and disturb our children.

Television is one of the most influential voices that can enter a home. It can be entertaining, enlightening, and educating. But when it transmits pictures or words we wouldn't want our children to see and hear in real life, television can become an unwelcome intruder, one that parents have too often found too difficult to control.

In study after study, the evidence has steadily mounted that television violence is numbing and corrosive. It can have a destructive impact on young children. In my State of the Union speech, I challenged the Members of Congress to give control back to parents. I asked them to require TV's to include the V-chip, a device that lets parents filter out programs they don't want to let into their homes and their children's lives.

Congress answered that challenge, and 3 weeks ago when I signed the telecommunications bill into law, the V-chip also became law. Now it will be standard in new television sets sold in our country. We need this.

To make the V-chip work, I invited leaders of the media and entertainment industry to come to the White House to work with us to help our families. And this past Thursday I met with the leaders of the television networks, the production studios, the cable companies, actors, directors, and writers. Their response was overwhelming, and our meeting was a great success.

For the first time ever, leaders of the television and entertainment industry have come together as one force and agreed to develop

a rating system for their programming that will help parents to protect their children from violence and other objectionable content on television. They said this system will be in place by next January.

Like the movie ratings have done for 27 years, the ratings for television will help parents to guide their children's entertainment choices. The system will provide families with a standard they can rely on from show to show, from channel to channel. Parents are the best judges of what their children should and shouldn't see, and this new rating system will help them to make those critical judgments. The best programming director for our children is a parent.

At my meeting with the entertainment industry, we also discussed the need for more programming that is suitable for children and that is educational and attractive to them. I want to preserve public broadcasting and the innovation it has brought in educational shows for children.

These days, a typical child will watch 25,000 hours of television before his or her 18th birthday. It's up to us whether these shows stimulate their minds or numb them. Let's build on the good shows that we have as models for educating and informing our children. I applaud the entertainment leaders for what they have done voluntarily. Through their action, they are being responsible for the product they produce, and they are showing greater concern for our American community and our children's future.

With the V-chip and the rating system, we mark a sea change. We are harnessing technology, creativity, and responsibility, bringing together parents, business, and Government to meet a major challenge to our society. After all, it doesn't do a family any good to have a nice television if the images it brings to our children erodes their values and diminishes their future.

We should look at this breakthrough as part of a bigger picture and as a lesson for

even greater achievement. As I have said many times, this is an age of great possibility when more Americans will have more opportunities to live out their dreams than ever before. But we also know that this is a time of stiff challenges as well. If we are to meet those challenges, all of us must take our proper responsibility. Government must play a part but only a part. Only if each of us measures what we do by basic standards of right and wrong, taking responsibility for our actions, moving us together, will we be able to move forward as a Nation.

Let me say again: Only if we work together in our businesses, our schools, our places of worship, our civic groups, will we transform our lives and our country. That is what I mean when I talk about corporate responsibility.

The actions of the television industry show us what can happen when visionary business leaders make a commitment to values and the common good as well as to the bottom line, and when they live up to their responsibilities as corporate citizens of our great country. I hope their example will be matched by the executives in other industries to address other problems and other challenges we face as a people. That means corporations helping to improve our schools, helping to connect them to the information superhighway, helping to demand high standards. That means corporations finding new ways to protect our environment even as they grow the bottom line and improve our economy.

That means businesses recognizing that workers are an asset, not a liability, and that a well-trained work force is any business' most important competitive edge. All these things demand a renewed commitment from business. And I am confident that the leaders of other industries will also rise to the challenge just the way the leaders of the entertainment industry did this week.

We can celebrate a giant step toward realizing the possibility of a great instrument of communication in the homes of our families. I believe we can meet our other challenges as a Nation in the same way. We'll all want to stay tuned for that.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 4:42 p.m. on March 1 in the Roosevelt Room in the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 2.

### **Remarks on the Terrorist Attack in Israel and an Exchange With Reporters**

*March 3, 1996*

**The President.** The suicide bombing in the Middle East last night shows once again how determined the enemies of peace are. In just a few moments I will be calling Prime Minister Peres to express our condolences, our solidarity, and our outrage. We must spare no effort here in the United States to support Israel and the other supporters of peace in defeating the forces of terrorism. I will also be in touch with Chairman Arafat and others in the region to ask for their support.

It is clear that there are forces at work in the Middle East who don't want peace and who exist based on the continuing misery and division of the people there. And we have got to do everything we can to defeat them and to stand with those in the Middle East, beginning with our friends in Israel, who are determined to defeat them.

This is a troubling moment, but I am determined to see that it does not defeat the peace process, and I am determined to do everything I can on behalf of the United States to support those who are standing against terrorism and standing for peace.

Thank you very much.

**Q.** What can the Palestinian leadership do to prevent these kinds of attack?

**The President.** Well, I'm going to encourage them to do more, to do everything that they can do, and we'll be working with them over the next few days. And I'm sure we'll be in touch, and we'll be answering more of your questions over the next few days. But we're going to work very hard on it.

I do believe that Chairman Arafat has made efforts, and I think he will make more. We have to build the capacity of all the forces in the Middle East, including the Palestinian authorities, to promote law and order and to stand against terrorism. It's going to be

a long battle, and we knew that when we started, but I believe we can prevail.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, on his return from Camp David, MD. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat.

### **Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Israel**

*March 3, 1996*

Once again, Americans join with the nation of Israel in their grief. On their behalf, I extend to Prime Minister Peres and to all his people our heartfelt condolence. We share your anguish and anger at this terrorist crime.

Those responsible again have shown the world that they are determined to stop the cause of peace through the brutal murder of Israeli citizens. But there must be no misunderstanding: The Palestinian people and their leaders, as well as the promise of peace itself, will be the true victims if those responsible are not stopped.

It is imperative that everything possible be done to help ensure that these tragic scenes are not repeated. Peacemakers must be as resolute as are the destroyers of peace in taking action now to confront this terror. To Prime Minister Peres and Chairman Arafat, I pledge that the United States will stand with you and with all those—Israelis and Palestinians—who support peace as you take up this challenge.

### **Remarks to the Community in Taylor, Michigan**

*March 4, 1996*

Thank you very much. Thank you, John Dingell, for that wonderful introduction and for your great service to this district. Thank you, Senator Levin. Thank you, Mayor Priebe, for making me feel so welcome. To Congressmen Levin and Conyers and Congresswoman Rivers. I'd also like to say a special word of thanks to all the others who have come here with me, including my good

friend, the Wayne County executive, Ed McNamara. But mostly, as a former musician, I want to thank the Taylor Central High band, the Taylor Truman High band, and the Kennedy High School band for playing. Let's give them a big hand. *[Applause]*

You know, the mayor said when we were walking in, "You were supposed to be here last November, and we were going to dedicate the city hall. And then when you rescheduled it was so cold we just built a new building for you to dedicate, so everybody could get in." And I'm glad to see all of you in this fine new building.

Let me say, too, that I'm sure all of you know when I had intended to come here last November I had to postpone it because of the tragic assassination of my friend, Prime Minister Rabin of Israel. And as I'm sure many of you know, today there has been yet another terrible terrorist attack in Tel Aviv, the second in just a couple of days.

Our prayers and thoughts are with the victims there. Our hearts are with those who fight for peace. It is truly ironic that the same forces that brought down the Israeli Prime Minister from within his own country and those who have killed the Israelis in the last couple of days have one clear thing in common: They both want to end the peace process. They live for division and conflict.

And I ask all of you, my fellow Americans, to send a message to Israel: If you fight for peace we will stand with you. That is the right, the noble, and the good thing to do.

Let me say that I'm glad to be here with Senator and Mrs. Levin, and John and Debbie Dingell. And I want to say a special word of thanks to John Dingell here in his district. I have now worked with him for 3 years. I've never met anybody who worked harder for the interests of ordinary Americans and working families than John Dingell, anybody who stood up more and more consistently.

As you know, he has worked to clean up the Great Lakes. He played a key role in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He has saved American taxpayers literally billions of dollars by investigating and exposing waste, fraud, and abuse. He hasn't just talked about it; he's done it. In large measure, John Dingell's work was the inspi-

ration for the reinventing Government effort that I asked Vice President Gore to head which has given us the smallest Federal Government we've had in 30 years, enabled us to get rid of thousands of pages of wasteful regulation, reformed the entire way in which we purchase goods and services with your tax money but is giving you a leaner and still a stronger Federal Government able to stand up for the interests of ordinary Americans. And John Dingell inspired that effort, and we thank him for that.

And let me say, back in 1994, in one of the few efforts of this administration that did not succeed, John Dingell stood there with me, and we got caught red-handed, and we plead guilty to believing that we should try to make sure that every American working family should be able to afford health care and shouldn't lose it when they change jobs or something happens.

Mayor Priebe has certainly left his mark on this city. This great new public works building is just one example of the revitalization taking place here. Since the mayor took office, he's built new roads; he's given you one of the finest courthouses in Michigan. You have a modern police station, which I might say also has some new community police officers in it, thanks to the crime bill of 1994, which is lowering the crime rate in America.

Now as you know, I was supposed to be here to dedicate the city hall, and as the mayor said, he just went on and built another new building so we could all meet inside in the wintertime. I have got a flag for the mayor that was flown over the Capitol. I hope he will accept it in the spirit in which it is given. And as far as I'm concerned, he can fly it over the city hall or any other building that he wants to fly it over here in Taylor.

I was surprised when Congressman Dingell told me that I was the first President ever to visit this fine community, because I believe what you do here and the way you do it is really an example of what America at its best is, and what America must do if we are going to move into the 21st century and meet the challenges that all these young people in this audience face for their future.

When I became your President, I had a very clear vision for what I wanted America

to be like in the 21st century. It's one I still hold today and one I think of every day when I go to work. I want our country to go into the next century as a Nation in which all Americans, every single one of us, all of us who are willing to work for it can have a shot at the American dream. I want our country to remain the world's strongest force for peace and freedom and prosperity and security. And above all, I want us to come together as a people, instead of being driven apart. I want us to unite around the basic values that made this country great, responsibility and opportunity, work and family and faith, and perhaps most important of all, the idea that we must go forward together. When we work together, America never loses.

As I said in my State of the Union Address and as people in Michigan demonstrate every day, this new and very different world we are moving into is an age of great possibility. With all my heart I believe as I look out in this sea of younger faces that are here and I think about what their future will be like, I believe the young people of our country will have more chances to live out their dreams than any generation of Americans ever has. But you and I know that this period of change is so profound that it also presents us with great challenges. We know that even as we create jobs millions of people feel less secure in the job they have. We know that even as more and more people get higher wage jobs, many, many Americans are working harder for the same or lower wages than they were making 10 years ago. This is a curious time. We know that we are making progress and bringing the crime rate down but that violence is still too high. And we know—we know that it has something to do with this incredible range of change through which we are going.

Let me say to you that we are moving into a period that, as you know, will be dominated by information and technology, out of a period that was dominated by manufacturing. We are moving into a period where work will have more mind and less muscle, even in our great factories. We are moving into a period where more and more workplaces will be dominated by the computer; they'll be less bureaucratic; they will tend to be smaller and more flexible. We are moving into a period

where the markets for products and services and money are global. And we are moving into a period where more information can pass more quickly across the globe than ever before.

The last time your country changed this much was 100 years ago, when most people moved from living in the country to the city and town, when most people moved from working on the farm to working in the factory. And many of the same things happened 100 years ago. There were people who made lots of money. There were people who found opportunities that they could not have dreamed of. And there were people who were severely dislocated and disturbed, and whose pattern of life was unsettled.

What did we do then? We kept moving until we worked through these changes and all Americans had a shot at the American dream. And it won't take as long this time if we keep moving in the right direction. That is what I ask you to support today and tomorrow and in the years ahead.

We have great challenges, and we must meet them together. And if we are to meet them together, we know that our Government must play its role. For many years we had the wrong debate in America. Are we going to have big Government or no Government? The answer is neither. The era of big Government is over. We have the smallest Government in Washington we have had since 1965. By the end of this year it will be the smallest it has been since John Kennedy was President of the United States. But that does not mean we should go back to the time when the American people were told you're on your own, fend for yourself. That is not the way we can move into the future.

We must have a partnership where everyone is challenged to do his or her part in the workplace, in the schools, in our houses of worship, in our unions and, yes, in our Government. The great lesson of democracy, let me say again—if you ask me, “Mr. President, what is the most important lesson you have learned in 3 years,” I would say, “When this country is divided, we defeat ourselves. When we are united, we never lose. That is the lesson of America.”

Look what has happened just here in Michigan in the last 3 years: The unemployment rate has dropped to 5 percent; new businesses have increased by 10 percent; over 311,000 new private sector jobs, 6½ times in the last 3 years as in each of the previous 4 years before this administration took office and we began to change the economic direction of America. Our auto industry is back. The world's best workers are making the best cars, and once again for the first time in 15 years, our auto industry is leading the world in sales and progress and profits.

In the last 3 years the auto industry has gained 75,000 jobs; in the 4 years before that, it lost 49,000 jobs. Just last week a study by the University of Michigan predicted that there would be 130,000 new hirings by Chrysler, Ford, and GM in Michigan alone in the next 7 years. That is good news.

One of the reasons for that is we are finally beginning to crack open the markets of Japan, and I want to say a special word of thanks to Senator Levin for his work in supporting those efforts that we have made. This, too, is an important decision for America. When you hear the trade debate, normally you would think there are only two choices: We should just open our markets and let anybody sell here who wants to sell, giving us the benefit of the lowest prices and letting the consumers of America have their say; or we should say, “No, that's not fair because so many markets are closed to us, that we will close our markets.” But that is not the only choice. I think we should have free trade; I think we should have fair trade. That means we should open other markets to America's products, not close ours and deprive our people of the right to buy what they want.

In the last 3 years our administration has concluded 20 separate agreements with Japan alone, part of a total of 200 separate trade agreements in the last 3 years. What has been the result? An 80-percent increase in the sales of American products covered by those 20 agreements in just 3 years. I think that's a pretty good record, and that's what this country ought to be doing.

Listen to this. Just in the last year, in 1 year, our auto exports to Japan increased by 37 percent. That's good for Detroit, good for

Taylor, good for Michigan, and good for America. We need more of it.

All across the Nation, we see something that our friends in Europe and Japan have not enjoyed, jobs coming back into this economy. In the seven largest economies in the world, the European economies, Japan, and the United States and Canada, in the last 3 years, a total of 7.7 million jobs have been created. In the United States, 7.7 million jobs have been created. We are growing jobs again in this economy, and that is the right direction for our country.

Homeownership at a 15-year high, an all-time record for 3 years in a row in the number of new businesses started; in the last 3 years, almost 800,000 new construction jobs alone, after losing 700,000 construction jobs in the 4 previous years; and for the first time in 10 years, slowly and too slowly, but at least for the first time in 10 years real hourly wages are starting to rise in the United States. It is about time, and not a moment too soon.

Now my fellow Americans, that is the good news, and it's all true. But as I said earlier, it's not the whole truth. The whole truth is we're going through a period of change that is still leaving some Americans behind. You know it, and I know it. Too many of our people are still working harder and harder for the same or lower wages. They wonder if they and their children will be able to prosper in this new era. Even with new jobs, with a booming, booming export market, with a huge increase in the stock market, with an increase in the productivity of American manufacturing, many of our people have not gotten a real wage increase in terms of what it will buy in almost 20 years. And we have to do something about that as well.

We also know that even though small businesses are hiring people at record rate, many of our largest companies are laying off workers, some of them because they have to compete in the global economy. Some of them are doing it even when their profits are going up so that a lot of people are insecure even in an economy that is growing. And we have to do our best to do something about that.

We have some serious challenges here if we want to make all Americans winners in this new economic era. We know that there are also challenges that go beyond the eco-

nomic. Let me just remind you of the seven challenges I set forth in the State of the Union Address if we want to see the American dream alive and well for all Americans. We have got to do more to strengthen our families and improve childhood. We've got to do more to take back our streets from crime and gangs and drugs. We've got to do more to leave our environment safe and clean for the next generation. We've got to do more to maintain our world leadership so that the world grows in peace and security. We've got to continue to work to give our people a Government that costs less but works better and is stronger. We've got to give every single American citizen the education that all of us need to compete and win in the new century.

And we have got to give every American who is willing to work for it a chance to have a decent amount of security at work and at home by growing this economy. We have to keep doing it until the American dream is there for all Americans. Many are winning today. Our job will be done when everybody who is willing to work for it has a chance to compete and win in this global economy. That must be our mission as Americans.

And let me say something that all of you know, but we sometimes forget. Economic growth is about more than money. It is not just ensuring that people have a certain number of material possessions, that they can go out to a nice restaurant once a month or take a vacation every year. It is about the idea of America, the idea that this is a place where there is room for everyone to have a shot at the American dream. It is about the idea of fundamental fairness in this country, that we are not a people who object to others being successful, we do not resent people amassing their own wealth fairly won in a free enterprise system. The only thing we resent is when every American who is doing the right thing and working hard and playing by the rules doesn't have a chance to be treated fairly. That is what we want in this country.

So I say to you we have done step one. We are creating jobs. But we must do more. We have to have an economic growth that reaches all Americans, and that must be our goal in the next 4 years. We have been stag-

nant now for nearly 20 years in our wages. Now we can do better. And I ask you to join with me in ensuring that we do just that.

Again I say to you, if we fail to grow together there will be more resentment, more frustration, and more division among the American people. When he signed the Declaration of Independence over 200 years ago, Benjamin Franklin said, "We must all hang together, or we shall hang separately." Today we must grow together, or we will surely grow apart and grow weaker as a Nation.

Now let me ask you to think about what we have done and what we should do and what you must do if we're going to grow together. We have cut the deficit in half. We have expanded our exports by being for free and fair trade. We have invested in education and training and technology. We have shrunk the Federal Government and cut regulation. We have tried to expand opportunities for our people. But we must do more if we're going to create jobs and raise incomes and give these people who are being downsized a chance to go right on with their lives and raise their children and live with hope and dignity, instead of frustration and a sense of failure. That is what we have to do, and we have to do more to get there.

And let me say that there is a lot that we can do that does not require us to wait for the next election. As I remind all of my friends in Washington, Democrat and Republican alike, just because there is an election in November doesn't mean we should have a work stoppage in March. It is time to go back to work and get things done.

So I want to challenge the Congress to join with me and pass a growth agenda for the American people in the next 60 days that will keep creating jobs and raise incomes. First, we should grow the economy by passing the right kind of balanced budget. It is wrong to leave our children a legacy of debt. And if we pass a balanced budget plan, it will lower interest rates, lower mortgage rates, lower credit card payments, lower car payments, increase business investment, increase jobs, and grow the economy.

But we can do it and do it in the right way. We do not have to have unwarranted cuts in Medicare or Medicaid or education or environmental protection. We do not have

to endanger—neither do we have to increase the tax burden on our hardest pressed working families. And we must not, just to make a little extra money, imperil the pensions of the American working people.

We should grow the economy by targeting a tax cut to the people who need it, the working families of America. I favor giving people help who are raising children out there and working for a living. Our tax relief for families with children has not kept up with inflation over the last 40 years. But the most important tax cut we could give—look at all the young people in the audience and look at yourself if you're still in the work force. I say, the most important tax cut we could give is to give families a tax deduction for the cost of college tuition and any other education after high school.

We should grow the economy by passing an increase in the minimum wage. Let me say this to you: If you've got a good job, I want to you to think about this. If you've got a good job and you're raising kids, I want you to think about this. If we don't raise the minimum wage this year, it will fall to a 40-year low in terms of purchasing power. There are millions of Americans out there, real heroes in my book, who get up every day and work full time for \$4.25 an hour and try to raise children on it. That is not an adequate rate to raise children. We can do this without hurting the economy, and we should raise the minimum wage.

We should grow the economy by passing the right kind of welfare reform. Yes, be very tough in requiring people who can work to work; be tough in requiring people to move from welfare to work. But do not hurt the children. Invest in the children and protect them in their future while you move people from welfare to work.

We should grow the economy by fully funding in this year all of our educational investments. We need the best schools, the best training, the best education we can. And one of the things we should fund is my proposal for a "GI bill" for America's workers. When a person loses a job they ought to get a voucher from the United States Government that says, here's \$2,600, take it where you want to take it, go there as quick as you can, get some new training and go back to

work. That's what we ought to do for the American people.

And we should grow the American economy by giving people a greater sense of security. There is a bill now before the Congress that has passed out of the Senate committees unanimously, supported by almost 50 Republicans and Democrats, and we cannot get it to a vote in the Senate because of the interest groups keeping it down, even though the National Association of Manufacturers and the AFL-CIO are for it.

It's a simple little bill. Here's what it says. It says, you cannot be denied your health insurance because someone in your family has been sick, and you cannot lose your health insurance just because you change jobs. Let's pass that bill and pass it right away and give the American people some security.

We should do this and do it now. Congress must do its part. It's a long way from now until the election, but every week between now and the election the American people will get up and go to work, they still have to pay their bills, they still have to educate their children, they still have to try to keep their dreams alive. We dare not have a work stoppage. Let's pass this growth agenda now for the American people.

Let me say that while Congress and the President, we must do our part, we know that economic growth comes largely from the private sector, and that fairness and decency in the workplace must be generated largely in the private sector. Every company in America must meet these challenges. I urge—I urge our employers in America to look at the things that make families strong, that help people to succeed at work and at home. I want to pass a bill that makes it easier for small business people to take out pension plans for themselves and their employees, but then they have to make wider use of those 401-K plans.

We need increased day care. We need more flexible working hours. And we need people to really think about whether it's the fair and right thing to do when you see these downsizings. If they have to do it to keep the business afloat, every American can understand that. But no one should lose a job for short-term considerations that are not necessary for the long-term well-being of the

profitable enterprise. We all need to do our part to keep America going and growing together.

And every one of you must remember, no one can require you to get further education or training; no one can make you become more productive. This is going to require an effort on the behalf—on the part of every American if we are going to have sustained growth. But we will try to do our part, with access to health care, with welfare reform, with rising wages, with better education and training, with a strategy that will open markets for American products. We can do all these things, again I say, if we do them together.

This is a time when it is fashionable to say the American people are cynical and skeptical. Well, I know there are plenty of things to be skeptical about. But let me tell you something, my fellow Americans, I get to do something none of you get to do. Whenever I leave this country, I become the United States in the eyes of other people. And I can tell you, wherever I have been, people think this is still a very great country.

I ask you to remember what President Kennedy said in the middle of the cold war when he went to Berlin. He said, "Freedom has many difficulties, and our democracy is far from perfect. But we never had to put up a wall to keep our people in." People want to come to the United States because this is a great country.

And when you hear your fellow citizens at work, at church, in the bowling alley on Thursday night, or anywhere else express cynicism about this country, you tell them that that is a poor excuse for inaction. Cynicism is just a cover for laying down and giving up and not going on. We have got to go on and go forward together.

All my life I have been driven by the conviction that it is fundamentally wrong for any human being to be deprived of their God-given capacity to grow and to live out their dreams. That animates everything we try to do in Washington. But this country runs fundamentally on your pulse, on your heartbeat, on your conviction, and on your work. And I ask you, join me in this one simple resolve: We will not permit the American people to

be divided in 1996. We are going forward together.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. at the department of public works. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Cameron G. Priebe of Taylor. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

### **Remarks in Taylor on the Terrorist Attack in Israel and an Exchange With Reporters**

*March 4, 1996*

**The President.** I want to express my deep anger at the news of this latest bombing in Israel and to reaffirm the determination of the United States to do all we can to work with our friends in the Middle East to stop the killing, to bring the killers to justice, and ensure that terrorism does not triumph over peace in the Middle East.

Once again the enemies of peace have murdered completely innocent Israeli citizens, including children, in their hysterical, determined, fanatic attempt to kill all hope of peace between Israel and Palestinians and others in the Middle East. We must again state our determination that these forces of terror shall not triumph.

Together with those who have worked so hard for lasting peace in the Middle East, the United States is committed to confronting this challenge and to prevailing over these forces of hate and violence. As we offer our prayers for the victims of the latest tragedy, we also reaffirm our commitment to the peace.

As I said earlier this morning and I would like to repeat again, it is ironic that I'm here in this community where I was slated to come last November but had to put it off to go to Israel for Prime Minister Rabin's funeral. The forces which led to his killing, as much as they claim to hate the forces that have been behind this latest round of bombing of innocent Israeli citizens, have one thing in common: They live for division. They live for the continuation of the violence and the hatred in the Middle East. They are even willing, as we see today, to kill themselves,

members of their own groups, just to keep people living on hatred and division.

We must not give in to that. We must fight it. We must fight it with all the resources at our command. And the United States will do everything we can to support Israel and the other friends of peace in the Middle East.

Thank you.

**Q.** Mr. President, are you convinced that Yasser Arafat has done all that he can to control Hamas? Many Israelis believe that he has just turned a blind eye and has talked about things, but not really done what needs to be done.

**The President.** Because it is a relatively new government it may be impossible ever to know for sure. But I am convinced that he wants peace. And I am convinced that he will now answer the call that I have issued, that the Israeli Prime Minister has issued, that others have issued, to do more.

And what I want to say to all my fellow Americans, what you are seeing here is an example of what has the potential to infect other countries all across the world. You saw it in the Japanese subway. You saw it in the Oklahoma City bombing. You see this going around the world, but it is more prevalent, more sustained, more well-organized in the Middle East. And there are people there really literally willing to die just to keep the division and the hatred and the violence going.

I believe that Mr. Arafat will have to do more. I believe everyone else will have to do more. He will have to do everything he can up to the limits of whatever capacities they have, and the rest of us will have to do our part as well.

**Q.** Have you talked to him?

**Q.** To follow on that, sir, do you think the Israelis should exercise restraint and not retaliate?

**The President.** I think that we will have to do—we have to stand with the proposition that those who are responsible for this should be held accountable for it. And we will do what we can to support them in that regard.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:02 p.m. at the department of public works.

## Remarks at a Democratic Luncheon in Detroit, Michigan

March 4, 1996

Thank you very much. Thank you so much. Thank you, Senator Levin, for that kind introduction and for your service in the Senate. I'm depending on all of you to make sure he continues that service in the Senate. We need him.

When you remember in 1996 what the other party attempted to do in 1995 to our budget and to our country, remember that the President alone could not stop it. If we had not had a veto-proof Senate and House, it would not have been possible to stop. So I ask you to reelect Carl Levin and John Dingell and David Bonior, and all the other members of the Democratic caucus of Michigan who are here. I see Sandy Levin and I think John Conyers is here. I see Bart Stupak out there, and I'm sure Lynn Rivers is here. And we need more people. So I want you to work hard in these races because they matter. They matter to you. They matter to our country.

It was a pretty long, lonely, cold fight for the last year, until the American people began to be heard loud and clear to make it possible for us to do some positive things which I hope will come forward in 1996. But I'm telling you it really matters not only to Michigan but to the entire United States for these people to be reelected and for you to send others of good will to join them.

So I thank you, Senator. And I thank you, David, for your leadership. And I want to say a special word of thanks to John Dingell. When Democrats lost the House for the first time in a long time, a lot of Members announced their retirement. And it wasn't so much fun anymore if you were a committee chairman or you had a nice subcommittee. And one day Hillary and I were sitting alone in the White House talking—this is a true story—we were talking, and some senior Member of the House had announced his retirement. And I looked at her and I said, "You know what, I'll bet you a hundred dollars John Dingell won't quit. He doesn't think you should quit when you're down, you ought to keep fighting until you get up again. Then you can quit." And I thank you for that.

Thank you, Ed McNamara, for that subtle reference to the airport and the funds you want. [Laughter] We were sitting there, and Ed in his nice Irish charm said, "You remember when you started running for President and nobody knew who you were, but I was there for you?" [Laughter] I said, "Yeah." He said, "Didn't you remember when everybody said you were just dead as a doornail and you were dropping like a rock and I didn't quit you?" [Laughter] I said, "Yeah." He said, "I've always been there, haven't I? Well," he said, "the bill's come due. [Laughter] I don't want anything for myself, but my airport needs \$15 million a year for the next 10 years."

If every public official asked for the bill to come due only for the public interest, this country would be a better place. Thank you, Mr. McNamara. Thank you.

I want to say it's nice to see Ambassador Blanchard here. I had occasion last week to talk to the Prime Minister of Canada, who is a remarkable man. And he was helping us to maintain our mission of peace and freedom and democracy in Haiti. And just in passing he said, "You know, you need to know that Jim Blanchard is the best Ambassador to Canada in my lifetime." He has done a remarkable job. Thank you.

I want to thank all the former Members of Congress who are here, the leaders of labor, the leaders of the teachers organizations, the business leaders, and all others who have come here for the Democratic Party today. And I want to thank all these folks here at our table who helped to sponsor this event for the work that they did. And I want to say a special word of thanks to Mayor Archer for proving that the empowerment zone could work, because Detroit has set the standard for the rest of the country.

The other day we had a meeting in Washington of all the communities who had participated in our empowerment zone enterprise community initiative. And for a modest investment of cash and a modest cluster of tax incentives, it is remarkable what is going on. But in no community in America can it be said that Detroit has been matched by taking this roughly \$100 million in cash, and about that much, perhaps a little more, in tax incentives and turning it into a \$2 billion

private commitment. I thank all the business community who participated in that and the fact that everybody is working together here. But, Mayor, more than anything else, it's a tribute to your leadership, and I thank you for what you have done.

I also want to thank the mayor for introducing everybody. He did a good job of introducing everybody. It reminded me of—he kept on introducing people, you know; it reminded me of the very first speech I ever gave as an elected official—was when I became attorney general of my State almost 20 years ago. And I was very nervous, and there were 500 people at a Rotary Club installation banquet in Pine Bluff, Arkansas—I never will forget this—January 1977. The banquet started at 6:30 p.m. I got up at a quarter to 10 p.m. to talk. *[Laughter]*

There were 500 people there and everybody had been introduced in the entire audience, except three people, and they went home mad. *[Laughter]* And the guy that got up to introduce me looked out at the crowd and said “You know, we could have stopped here and had a real nice evening.” *[Laughter]* And I thought, now, that's not what he meant, but that's what he said. *[Laughter]* Ever since then I've been more careful about what I said.

I also want to thank David Bonior for telling that joke. I used to tell jokes, but they told me it wasn't Presidential, so I had to quit. *[Laughter]* So now I just have to laugh at other people, and I'm always grateful when I get one.

Let me say a special word of thanks to the DNC Chairman, Don Fowler, who is here with us, and to Terry McAuliffe and Laura Hartigan for the work they've done. I'm very grateful to them. And let me say to all of you, again, I don't want to give a long talk today, but I want you to understand exactly what is at stake.

In 1992 when I ran for President and the people of Michigan were good enough to vote for me, the real issue was whether we had to have a change or stay with the status quo; whether we would adopt an aggressive approach to the challenges facing America, the economic challenges and the social challenges, or whether we would basically say that the Government could kind of stand pat

and wait for things to get better. And so the American people, both those who voted for my candidacy and those who supported Mr. Perot, voted for change.

In 1996 there is a different issue. It may be papered over from time to time, and people may claim they're more moderate or whatever you will hear. But the truth is that the choice will be between two very different changes, two very different approaches to the future. And you will have to decide, along with all our fellow Americans, which approach you favor. At least now, as I think the mayor said or the Senator said—somebody said—you have some basis for comparison that goes beyond rhetoric.

When I became President I was basically driven into the race by the conviction that this country could not sit by and permit the American dream to be squandered for a generation of Americans, permit the leadership of 50 years to be squandered for the future of America, and permit this country to be divided and to come apart when we ought to be coming together. I had a very simple, straightforward vision for the country that I still think about every single day. I believe we have to go into the next century with the American dream alive and well for every person who is willing to work for it; with America the world's leading force for peace and freedom and prosperity and security; and with America coming together around our basic values of work and faith and family, of responsibility along with opportunity, and more important than anything else, of a sense of community—that we are going forward together if we are going forward at all—and that we don't need to become a place and not a country. We don't need to become a swarm of isolated individuals. We don't need to become a group of people who think that we can only advance if our neighbors fall back, who think that we can only be important if we can somehow diminish the significance of others who share this land with us.

The ultimate, terrible, extreme tragedy of that point of view we saw once again in the Middle East today where a fanatic blew himself to smithereens for the pleasure of killing innocent children. Why? Because if you believe those who are different from you are the embodiment of the devil, then they de-

serve whatever they get. And then life's animating purpose is continuing the division, turning up the heat until it becomes hatred, and making sure that nothing good or positive ever happens. And in a fundamental way, when you go through a period of change, like we are—thank God we don't face that in that dimension—but when you go through a period of change like we are, when it can be very disorienting, you have to decide, am I going to define myself in terms of who I am or who I'm not; in terms of what I'm for or what I am against; in terms of what I intend to do or in terms of what I want someone to do for me. These are great and fundamental questions.

Now, there has always been a healthy political debate in this country, and there always will be, and well there should be. No one has a corner on the truth. No one has a market for the future. I understand that. But when we decide what kind of change we want, it depends fundamentally, more importantly than anything else, on whether we believe we have to go forward together or whether we think we ought to be left to fend for ourselves, because all of us in this room are more successful than most and we'll do just fine. That is the fundamental change question the American people confront today.

If you look at this period through which we are going, it explains much of the ambivalence, sometimes the outright confusion people have about the present moment. How could we have almost 8 million new jobs after 4 years of having virtually no new jobs, how could we have a growth in manufacturing jobs after 4 years of losing manufacturing jobs, how could we regain the lead in automobile production for the first time in a decade and a half, how could we be voted the world's most productive economy 2 years in a row after having been ranked fifth or sixth or something when I took office? How could all this happen and still half or more of the American people are working harder for the same or lower pay in terms of purchasing power? How could that happen?

How could it be that we created this many jobs, but there would still be isolated pockets where no new opportunities were coming and children were on the street raising them-

selves and, therefore, the crime rate would be going down nationwide, but it would still be going up among juveniles in certain areas? How could this happen?

How can it be if the stock market is at 5,700, big companies are laying people off and downsizing them and people my age, 50-year-old men, are being told that they're not important anymore; thank you very much for the last 25 years; you figure out how to send your kids to college? How do all these things happen at once?

How could we have 3 years in a row where we have more new businesses started than ever before, and 3 years in a row where we have more new self-made millionaires—a great thing; not somebody being given an inheritance, making a million dollars in work for themselves in this system—how could that happen at the same time these other things are happening? How could all the news be overall so good, and then there be these specific stories of people riddled with anxiety?

The answer is, it always happens when you totally change the rules in a society, and when a period of profound change comes along. And the reason a lot of us cannot understand it is there's nobody here old enough to remember the last time it happened because the last time it happened was 100 years ago.

But you think about what built Michigan. One hundred years ago people started moving from the rural areas to cities and towns. A hundred years ago people stopped having most of their work being on the farm to most of their work being in the factory, or in shops serving the factory, or serving people who made their living in a factory. And it changed everything. And then after the Depression, there was this great explosion of people out of places where they made their living on the farm, running to places like Detroit and Flint and the suburbs to make a living in the factory. I mean, I'm convinced that one of the reasons I won the Michigan Democratic primary is that every third voter had a grandmother from Arkansas. *[Laughter]*

I mean, why? Because this great exodus that started 100 years ago continued right through until after the Great Depression, the end of World War II, and after World War

II. This sea change—from farm to factory; country to city and town. What is the comparable change today? From industry to information and technology. From an American market to a global market for goods, for services, and for money. Changing the nature of work; there's more mind and less muscle, even in the factory.

It's amazing how many factories you go into today and watch either work being done by robots or workers working on computers calculating what the machine should do with ever greater precision. And the change in the workplace—we all know about all these people being downsized, but what we never hear because it's happening in the little places is—in a thousand little places—is that in the last 3 years there were more new jobs created by businesses owned by women alone than were laid off by the Fortune 500. So there's a change in the workplace. The workplace is becoming more numerous and smaller, by and large.

And when all that happens, you have all these new possibilities created. But when you disrupt the established order of things, a lot of people who have worked hard, done everything they should do all their lives, find themselves on the short end of the stick. So the challenge for us today and the challenge America faces is how do we keep the dynamism going? You know, we've actually gotten a modest increase in wages in the last 3 years for the first time in a decade. How do we keep the jobs coming? How do we keep the new businesses being formed? How do we keep the kind of empowerment efforts we see in Detroit going? How do we keep the good things about the economy and still give more and more people their shot at the American dream so that we can say, if you work hard, if you play by the rules, you've got a chance to live up to your God-given potential? That is the challenge.

And I argue to you that the way we do it is not by turning around and going back, because that's denial and we can't get there. As all the kids in my daughter's class say, denial is not just a river in Egypt. *[Laughter]* That is not an option. We have to work all the way through this. But if we're going to do it, we have to do it together. We cannot proceed in a country where people believe

they're not going to be treated fairly, that no matter how hard they work they'll never get ahead, that no matter what they do they'll never have their shot at the American dream.

Now, that's the point I was trying to make in the State of the Union when I said—and I believe—that we have to have a program to meet the challenges of the future that focus on what we can do together to make our families stronger, to make our streets safer, to make our environment cleaner, to continue our leadership for peace and freedom and prosperity; what we can do together to have a Government that is smaller and costs less, but does more; not a weak Government, but one that's effective at being a partner with the American people; and in terms of reviving the hopes of all Americans, what we can do together to guarantee a world-class educational opportunity to every single American, starting with our children in Head Start and going through every single adult worker for a lifetime; and what we can do together to create an environment in which people can find a measure of economic security for home and family while we keep the dynamic economy going.

Those are the challenges. And I believe we have to do it together. I believe this idea that we can go back to the era when everybody was left to fend for themselves; that we can say the Government is intrinsically evil and everything it does is wrong, and they mess up a one-car parade, is foolish at best.

Let me tell you something. My friend, James Carville, has just written a book, which I commend to all of you—it's a little paperback book—but in it he points out that in the last 30 years we have spent one-half of your tax money on three things: defense, Social Security, and Medicare. Now, did you get your money's worth? We won the cold war. We cut the rate of poverty among elderly Americans in half. And with Medicare, if you live to be 65, you are in the group of seniors with the highest life expectancy in any country in the entire world. I think we got our money's worth by working together, and we will in the future, as well.

So as we go back to Washington today I want to challenge the Congress to continue to work to keep the dynamism of the economy going, but give people a greater sense

of security and a greater sense of opportunity. And there are lots of things that we can do. We ought to pass a balanced budget plan consistent with the values we've been fighting for for the last 15 months. We can get lower interest rates, which means lower rates to borrow money for businesses to put people to work. It means lower home mortgage rates, lower car payment rates, lower credit card rates. But we ought to do it without undermining our commitments through Medicare, through Medicaid, through education, through environmental protection. We do not need to do what some of the extremists urged us to do last year, which is to make money by raising taxes on the hardest pressed working families and giving people the right to raid their employee's pension funds. We do not have to do that to balance the budget. We ought to do it in the right way.

If we have a tax cut it ought to be targeted to families raising children, to give them a chance to participate in the American dream. And the most important tax cut we could give is a tax deduction for the cost of college education. That is the most important thing we could do. We ought to pass welfare reform that is very tough in terms of requiring people to move to work, but understands that people have to succeed at home and at work, so we shouldn't punish innocent children. We should lift up children and strengthen families even as we have the right kind of welfare reform.

And I cannot believe that there is even a debate in Washington about whether we ought to raise the minimum wage. You know, we're having a nice time here today. And I've heard every time somebody says we ought to raise the minimum wage they say, oh, that's just going to cost a lot of jobs. It's interesting that the last time the Congress voted to raise the minimum wage most of the people in the other party were for it, maybe because they had a President of the other party in the White House. But the people out there working on the minimum wage don't much care who is in the White House. It's all they can do to keep body and soul together and pay the bills. There are millions of people out there today working 40 hours a week, raising their kids on \$4.25 an hour. Now, you

want the mayor to go into inner-city Detroit and tell these kids they ought to stay off drugs and stay out of gangs and work hard and they'll amount to something in life and they can have a good life, and oh, by the way, here's \$4.25 an hour. Raise three kids on it.

This is wrong. The minimum wage will be at a 40-year low in terms of what it will buy if we don't raise it by the end of the year. We do not have to grow the American economy by keeping the minimum wage as low as possible. And I have just reviewed the last 15 studies on this, and all but two say that there is no significant loss of jobs with a modest raise in the minimum wage. Indeed, it may increase jobs because you'll have more people wanting to move from welfare to work if you pay them a living wage. We ought to raise the minimum wage. We ought to do it this year. We ought not to wait until the election.

We ought to have another round of empowerment zones. There ought to be another 100 communities that become empowerment zones or enterprise communities that have a chance to do what Detroit did. There are other cities in Michigan that need a chance to do this as well.

We ought to pass the bill that has now been voted out of the committee in the Senate unanimously, has 50 Republican and Democratic cosponsors nearly—simple little bill—it says you shouldn't lose your health insurance when you change jobs or when someone in your family gets sick. Surely, if we believe in work and family, we can say that you shouldn't lose your health insurance when you change jobs or when someone in your family gets sick. We ought to pass that bill right away.

And finally, let me say, we should pass the education appropriations that is now months and months late. We ought to fund the programs for high standards in our schools. We ought to fund the programs that will help us to bring high technology into our poor schools. We ought to fund the programs that will help our schools be safer and more drug-free.

Let me just give you one example. I was in a school in New Jersey about 2 weeks ago, in a neighborhood that is very modest income, where a significant percentage of the

children are first-generation immigrants, where the test scores were so low and the performance was so bad that the State was about to go in and take over the schools. And Bell Atlantic came in with others in the community and put computers in all the classes, made sure they had good educational software, and then they put computers in the homes.

I met a man who came here from El Salvador in 1980 who is now—he and his wife e-mail the principal at school to find out whether their kid is doing the homework and how they're doing. And let me tell you what's happened since they did that in that poor school. And New Jersey, I believe, is the second or third richest State in America. That school district in that poor neighborhood now has a higher attendance rate, a higher graduation rate, and most important, higher test scores than the New Jersey State average, because they were given a chance to be a part of something good and noble. That's what we ought to do for everybody.

Now, that's what I stand for. If we had no Government there would be a lot of good things happening in America. You can see it is some of these countries that we compete with that change governments two or three times a year just to kind of stay in practice. [Laughter] And their economies continue to grow. But their unemployment rates are higher. They suffer terrible inequalities of opportunity.

You just have to decide. It's your country; it's your future. And I'm telling you, if we can get our people that agree with us to break through their skepticism and break through their cynicism, and break through all the political rhetoric that dominates too many of our elections, and show up, stand up, and be counted this year, I know what decision America will make. I do not believe the American people want to continue to go down a road where we are divided for cheap, short-term political purposes at every election. I think the American people understand that when we are divided we defeat ourselves, and when we are united we never lose.

So I ask you, in Michigan, where we have to win to move the country forward, stand up with us and fight with us, and reelect

these Members of Congress and elect some more, and help us so that we can make the right decision. The issue is no longer change versus status quo. There are two dramatically different views of change on the agenda for America, and one of them has us going forward together. That's the right one. That's the one we need to bring to the American people.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:22 p.m. in the Cobo Conference and Exhibition Center. In his remarks, he referred to Ed McNamara, Wayne County executive; James J. Blanchard, Ambassador to Canada; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; Mayor Dennis W. Archer of Detroit; and Terry McAuliffe, finance chairman, and Laura Hartigan, finance director, Clinton/Gore '96. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

### **Statement on Representative Sam Gibbons' Decision Not To Seek Reelection**

*March 4, 1996*

Congress has lost a tenacious champion of America's elderly and an unrelenting fighter for health care reform, open markets, and free trade with today's decision by Representative Sam Gibbons not to seek reelection.

From his days as a hero on the beaches of Normandy through his 34 years in Congress, Sam Gibbons has served his country and fought for what he believed. As a Congressman, Representative Gibbons has been a leader in domestic policy, particularly in the defense of America's senior citizens and the protection of their health care. In recent years, he has worked tirelessly on efforts to provide health care coverage to all Americans.

The American people are grateful for Sam Gibbons' long service. His deep dedication to the Congress and to the American people will be sorely missed.

## **Remarks to the National Association of Counties**

*March 5, 1996*

Thank you very much. Thank you, Doug Bovin. Thank you, Michael Hightower. I have enjoyed working with Doug. I know I will enjoy working with Michael, and I enjoy working with all of you.

I want to talk to you today about our partnership. And we were joking outside—I know that in some States, the States may be too big for the person running for Governor to basically operate from county courthouse to county courthouse, but I never found that an obstacle at home. And I feel right at home here, and I thank you for your warm welcome.

Before I begin my remarks to you I feel obliged to say, because this is my first public appearance of the day, that I'm sure that all of you as Americans share my outrage at the campaign of terror which is being directed at the people of Israel. These are desperate and fanatic acts aimed not just at killing innocent people, including innocent children, but at killing the growing prospects for peace in the Middle East. They must not succeed.

Today I'm announcing a series of steps to support the fight against future terrorist attacks, to bring killers to justice, and to rally support for peace in the Middle East. These steps include immediate emergency transfer to Israel of highly sophisticated detection equipment; the dispatch of American specialists to work with their Israeli counterparts on strengthening antiterrorism measures; the development of a comprehensive package of training, technical assistance, and equipment to improve antiterrorism cooperation among Israel, the Palestinians, and other governments in the region; and contact with foreign governments to ask for their help in the fight for peace and against terrorism. The United States has always stood with the people of Israel through good times and bad, and we stand with them today.

Let me say that in so many ways your work is the polar opposite of the extremism which threatens to tear apart the fabric of so many societies in the world today. When you walk out of your office the great challenges of our time confront you with human faces. You

have no choice but to reach out to your fellow citizens and to try to work together to meet those challenges. As the great former mayor of New York City, Fiorello La Guardia, once said, there is, after all, no Republican or Democratic way to clean the streets. You have shown what can be accomplished if people put aside their differences and work together. And I hope while you're here you'll remind every elected official in Washington that we, too, can do our job here if we do it together.

I came into this community and into my job with a very straightforward vision. I wanted to make sure that our country would go into the 21st century with the American dream alive and well for every single American willing to work for it. I wanted our country to remain the strongest force for peace and freedom, for security and prosperity in the post-cold-war world. And above all, I wanted to see this country come together around our basic values and our mutual respect for one another.

Our strategy started with a commitment to grow the economy to create economic opportunity. In the last 3 years, we have worked on getting the deficit down, interest rates down, investment in our people up, opportunities for Americans to sell their goods and services all across the world up; our commitment to technology, to research, to breaking the barriers to economic opportunity for all Americans up.

In the last 3 years we've made some notable progress. Americans have created almost 8 million new jobs. We have the lowest combined rates of unemployment and inflation in 27 years. Homeownership is at a 15-year high. For the first time in many years, average earnings are going up, and for the first time in many years our exports are growing faster than our imports. Our auto industry leads the world again, and for 2 years in a row, after many years on the back benches, an international economic forum has said that America is the world's most productive economy.

For 3 years in a row, our people have set successive records for starting new businesses. We're also beginning to come together around our basic values. The crime rate, the welfare and food stamp rolls, the

poverty rate, the teen pregnancy rate are all coming down in America, thanks in no small measure to the labors that many of you carry on in communities dealing with these challenges every day.

But if you take a full accounting of America's picture, you have to take the challenges along with the successes. We know still, in spite of the fact that our economy has produced 8 million new jobs, almost—and I might say, just to give you an idea of the magnitude of that achievement, the G-7 economies, the world's big seven economies, in the last 3 years have created, net, a total of 7.7 million new jobs. And America has created 7.7 million new jobs. The other six have created some—some have created some, some have lost. Their net is zero.

It is not easy for wealthy countries to create new jobs. The United States has been doing that, and we can be proud of the people who are doing it, almost exclusively in the private sector with the environment that has been created and the work that they do. Still we know that an awful lot of our people are working as hard or harder than they ever have without a raise. For about half of Americans their real incomes in terms of what it will buy have not gone up in more than a decade. Too many of our people have gone nearly two decades. And a lot of parents are beginning to wonder whether they'll be able to give their children a better standard of living than they enjoyed.

We know that our economy is becoming highly competitive, but that too many of our people are being downsized in their most productive years, and years when their families are most relying on them, when their children are being raised or when they're about to go off to college. And a lot to these folks have no real idea about how they're going to move in a reasonable time to another job doing as well as they were before. And we know that even though unemployment is below 6 percent and below the 25-year average unemployment rate of America, there are still too many urban neighborhoods and rural communities where there aren't enough jobs for young people to believe that they have a bright future.

If you look at the social front, who would have believed 3 years ago that we could bring

the crime rate down, but that random violence among juveniles, children under 18, would be going up? Who would believe that the drug usage among people between the age of 18 and 34 would be going down, but that casual drug use among children under 18, including—and illegal—tobacco smoking, even though it's illegal in every State in the country, would be going up?

How did this happen? The truth is, no one knows all the answers, but it is clear that a big part of it is that you and I are serving in public life at a time of very profound change; I would argue the most profound period of change in the last 100 years. You have to go back about 100 years to the time when Americans moved from living primarily in rural areas to living primarily in cities and towns, in the time when Americans moved from working primarily on the farm to working primarily in the factory or in businesses supporting factories.

That's what is happening today. We are moving from a national economy to a global economy. The nature of work is changing. Even manufacturing, which is still very strong—indeed, growing stronger in America—is becoming characterized more by information technology than by hard work in terms of muscle power.

Work now in almost every endeavor requires more mind and less muscle. More and more workplaces are less hierarchical, less bureaucratic, indeed, on average, less big. The average manufacturing facility contains 300 or fewer employees. So the work is changing, the workplace is changing, the markets are changing, and information is changing.

Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, in his book "The Road From Here" says that the digital chip is the biggest change in information technology in 500 years, since Gutenberg first printed the Bible in Europe. But this is the dimension of the change through which we are all living.

Now, on the whole, this change has been good for America. There are more possibilities open to young people to live out the future of their dreams than at any time in our Nation's history. But as with any time of change this profound, there is also a great uprooting, a great unsettling, where estab-

lished patterns of life and living and working together are disrupted. And when that happens, it is imperative that those of us who are charged with the public purpose, with bringing people together, with giving everybody a chance, work hard to see that we make these changes, that we go through this period of change in a way that gives every American the chance to be a full citizen living up to his or her full abilities. How we will master this moment of change is, therefore, the great question not only before the President and the Congress, not only before the business leaders of this country, but before every community leader in the United States of America.

In my State of the Union Address I outlined the seven great challenges that I think we have to meet as a people if we're going to fulfill those objectives that I brought to this office, if we're going to guarantee the American dream for all Americans, if we're going to maintain our world leadership for peace and freedom, if we're going to come back together around our basic values.

We have to build stronger families and better childhoods for all of our children. We have to open educational opportunities so that every child and every adult has access to world-class lifelong learning. We have to provide economic security for families who are willing to work for it. We must take back our streets, all our streets, from crime and gangs and drugs. We must provide a healthy and clean environment for today and tomorrow. We must maintain our leadership in the fight for freedom and democracy, because if we don't do that no one else will. And we must reinvent our Government so that it works better and once again inspires real trust in the American people. None of these things can be done unless we do them together, unless we understand that the old categories by which we thought and the old categories by which we classified one another have to have enough flexibility in them to allow us to reach out across the lines that divide us to meet these common challenges.

One of the things that we must do here in Washington is to understand that while we have an obligation to have a clear vision, to set clear national goals, to challenge people from every walk of life to meet these

goals, we cannot solve America's problems for America. We have to instead focus on giving individuals and families and neighborhoods and communities the tools they need to make the most of their own lives and to meet our common challenges. In other words, we need to focus as much as possible on the "what" America needs to do, and do as much as we can to let you and people like you all over America determine the "how"—how it will be done.

For more than 15 years now there has been a raging debate in our country about what the role of the Federal Government should be, and whether the Government was the problem instead of part of the solution. Well, we all know that the era of big Government is over. We're moving to a time when large bureaucracies are not only not necessary, they're not the most effective way of meeting our common challenges. But I submit to you that that does not mean that we can, under the guise of saying the Government is the problem, return to a time when all of our people were left to fend for themselves. That will not meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

What works in the global economy is teamwork. What works in the global economy is getting diverse people together and finding out who has got what skills and figuring out how people can work together for their mutual benefit. Individuals can be fulfilled in this kind of world only when they are prepared to work with each other to help every one of them fulfill their God-given capacities. I believe that more strongly than anything else. If you ask me, what is the one most important lesson you have learned as President, I would say it is that we must go forward together. We cannot go back to the time when people were left to fend for themselves under the luxury of believing that anything we do together is wrong.

We do not need a big bureaucracy for every problem, but we don't want a weak Government. When I traveled to Washington and Oregon and Idaho, to Pennsylvania the other day to see the effects of the terrible flooding, no one wanted the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be weak; they wanted it to be quick.

When I see that for 15 years now, 15 years, the Fortune 500 companies have been reducing employment—this is not a recent development, but small businesses in America have been creating more jobs every year than big business is laying off. Indeed, in the last 3 years, businesses owned by women alone have created more jobs than the Fortune 500 have laid off. We do not need a weak Small Business Administration. It can be smaller, but it should be strong.

So what I'd like to do today is to talk about what your role is and what our role is and what we have to do together. The idea that Washington can actually solve all problems rather than empowering people and communities to solve their problem is moving rapidly away.

Just in the last 3 years, the size of your Federal Government has been reduced by 205,000 people. It is now the smallest it's been since 1965. By the end of this year, the Federal Government will be the smallest it's been since 1962. We are getting rid of 16,000 pages of Federal regulations. And as I'm sure Carol Browner told you before I came, we are trying to find more innovative ways to work in partnership not only with local government, but also with the private sector.

We have approved a record number of welfare reform waivers, 53 different projects for 37 States. We do need welfare reform legislation, but you should know that 10 million people, or almost three-quarters of all the people on welfare in the United States of America, are covered by welfare reform projects already approved by this administration in just the last 3 years.

I want to pass the right kind of welfare reform bill because I'd like to get out of the waiver business altogether. I don't want States or counties to have to come to Washington every time they want to try some new, innovative approach to moving people from welfare to work. We know essentially we're stuck with a system which was designed for a population different from the population now on welfare. We know that what welfare people want and need is the same thing that all of us are living with, which is they need to work, but they need to be successful parents. And one of the great challenges for

America is how every family can be successful in the home and at work.

Therefore, welfare reform should be tough on work and supportive of children, not weak on work to save money in the short run and tough on kids, but within those parameters and with the objective of moving everybody who can be moved into the workplace who can become independent, who can become self-supporting, who can communicate respect to their own children and help to raise their own children better. That is the kind of welfare reform we ought to have.

We passed the unfunded mandates law, which I know you all support. For years and years and years it was easy for Congress to cut taxes, cut spending, and just solve all the public problems by passing a mandate along to you. I remember when I was a Governor once I asked a Member of Congress in an election season—I said, which one would you rather be, a Member of Congress who cut taxes and cut spending, or a Governor who got a mandate and had to raise taxes and spending to meet an order from the Federal Government so that the responsibility was always different from who was actually carrying the burden of public persuasion. That's what the unfunded mandate law was all about and we did the right thing to pass it.

We've also given you new flexibility to build roads, to turn public housing projects into safe, affordable, mixed-income communities. The empowerment zone and enterprise community initiative has given Federal support to community-based reform. And I was in Michigan yesterday with the county executive there, Ed McNamara, and the mayor of Detroit, Dennis Archer, at one of our most successful endeavors. I want a second round of empowerment zones and enterprise communities. We need to keep doing this to give incentives to local people to work together to build their own futures. And we're just getting started.

We know that if we're going to continue doing what we've been doing and continue making progress, we have got to give more responsibility, not just in the State capitals but also in the county seats and the city halls of America where the rubber meets the road and the decisions must be made.

Let me talk just a minute about what I think we should be doing and then a little bit about what you and I have to do together for the future. First of all, we have to meet the continuing challenges of this economy. If I had told anybody 3 years ago that we'd have a 27-year low in the combined rates of unemployment and inflation and almost 8 million new jobs and a record number of new businesses and a 15-year high in homeownership, but half the American people would not have a raise and a lot of people would feel very uncertain in the downsizing, and some communities would be left out still of the new jobs, you would have found that hard to believe. It is because of the nature of the changes that are going on.

The answer is not to try to put a wall around America or turn around and run back into a past that we can never achieve again. The answer is to keep pushing until we get all the way through this period of change in a way that permits all Americans to win. That's exactly what we did the last time we went through a period of change like this. It took us decades before. I believe we can do it in less time now because the pace of change is so great.

But let's look at what we have to do. We have to have more growth to produce more good jobs and to spread that opportunity to more people, and to help people who lose their jobs move through the transition more quickly so that they can once again become productive and support their families and have the kind of self-respect every American deserves who is willing to work for it.

What should we do? Yesterday, I called on Congress to pass a growth agenda within 60 days to build on the work of the last 3 years. I won't go through it all now, but let me just mention two or three points. First of all, we ought to pass the right kind of balanced budget, and we ought to do it now.

The economic plan of 1993, though it was controversial, cut our deficit in half in 3 years, drove interest rates way down. What happened with low interest rates? That helped to bring about the homebuilding boom and the 15-year high in homeownership. That helped to increase incomes by cutting the costs Americans have for their car payments, their credit card payments, their

home mortgage payments. That helped to sustain a long period of growth.

If we can pass a balanced budget plan, we'll get interest rates down again, so that we'll not only be lifting the burden of debt off of future generations, we'll be giving the present economy the best stimulus it can have to grow and grow and grow. And that means people at your level will be able to pay tax revenues they get from earning more money to fund the county services that you all desperately need to provide.

But there is another issue in the budget that I know has already been discussed here. We're not only still negotiating over how to balance the budget for the next 7 years, we're still talking about finishing the budget work for this year, and that is very hard on you. You have to plan, after all, for daycare services, 911 lines, for jail cells. You have a road budget to meet. You have all of these things you have to do.

Without a national budget, you can't plan. you can't answer basic questions: What kind of resources can I count on to implement this initiative or that one? How much flexibility am I going to have to make this happen? It is unacceptable for America's counties, for America's cities, for America's States not to know what's coming at them. And the effects of this uncertainty are not good. I read the survey you released on Friday. A good many of you have had to postpone construction projects, reduce services, stop hiring. You're looking at higher costs across the board for health care, for welfare, for summer jobs programs.

Enough is enough. We cannot afford to have our counties stuck in suspended animation. You deserve to know what to expect. So I ask you to join with me in saying to the Congress, you're back in town, we've got to stop governing by continuing resolution. It's time to come together and pass a budget for this year. But also time to come together and pass a budget that will be in balance in 7 years.

We can do this. I want to make it clear to you that as a result of all the negotiations that went on in the previous months between the congressional leaders and the White House, we have now identified savings that are common to both the Republican plan and

my plan amounting to \$700 billion. That is more than enough to balance the budget, and done right, to protect Medicare and Medicaid; to protect our investments in the environment; to protect our investments in education; to avoid doing away with the summer jobs program, which I think would be a terrible mistake. It is also enough to provide a modest tax cut to families who have been struggling to stay ahead over the last several years, and to give what I think would be the best tax cut of all, a tax deduction for the cost of college education and all education expenses after high school.

But also remember it's important to balance the budget, which means that all of us, including the President, have to deal with cuts that we may not otherwise like to deal with, because if we balance the budget we get the interest rates down again, we keep the economy going, we keep creating jobs, we give incomes a chance to continue to rise. That is very, very important.

If you have any doubt about whether this can be done by Republicans and Democrats in this environment in an election year, I ask you just to look at what's happening today on Capitol Hill. Members of both parties, led by Senator Kassebaum of Kansas and Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts, are announcing a bipartisan commitment to pass historic legislation that will stop insurance companies from cutting off customers just because someone in the family gets sick or they change jobs. It is high time. This is something that we can do to increase access to all people to health care, a critical component of family security in the modern world. I applaud Congress for their commitment here, Republicans and Democrats alike. I look forward to signing the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill and I hope they will continue.

We've got 3 weeks until Congress takes a break for Easter. That's more than enough time to move ahead on health care reform and to pass the balanced budget. There are other things that I think should be done, including raising the minimum wage and other aspects of the economic growth issue. But just think what would happen if we could do this by Easter, just these two things, to pass that health care reform bill and to pass the balanced budget plan. Think of the con-

fidence, the spirit, the energy it would send throughout America. Think how people would feel differently about the ability of the Government to solve problems and the ability of the country to move forward and the ability of people in Washington to behave in a bipartisan, even a nonpartisan way, in the way that so many of you have to do, day-in and day-out.

We have to do this. But it is not enough. We also have to work with you in a partnership to meet the challenges that I outlined in the State of the Union. We're working together to strengthen America's families, by fighting to end the tragedy of domestic violence. Last month, as a part of our continuing effort, we set up a national domestic violence hotline. This will help, but it won't work alone.

Counties have a special role to play in this endeavor. Your police officers are the ones who respond to the desperate 911 call. Your judges are the ones who have to bring domestic abusers to justice. You have to make sure that members of your community and your officers of the law understand that this is a serious, serious problem in the United States. It can't be solved by simply taking repeated abusers out for a walk around the block to cool down. This is a crime where training and education that you can provide can truly make a difference, a huge difference in the quality of childhood and the quality of life in America. So I ask you to stand with hundreds of thousands of women who are battered each year, with the thousands and thousands of children that are abused, and say, "No more." I salute you for what you're doing, and I ask you for more.

We must bring the same spirit of partnership to our efforts to provide all Americans with the educational opportunities they need for this new era. Let's take the Goals 2000 education reform, for example. It says that we should have nationally competitive standards, standards that will stand us in good stead in the world, and that those standards are needed in a global economy, in the smallest rural community in my home State, and in the biggest cities of America. But it says that States and counties and school districts should agree to meet them, but should then

have the ability to decide on how to meet them.

Our administration is taking the lead in setting higher national standards in calling for measurable means for determining whether they're being met or not, but in giving more flexibility to local schools and local entities than ever before in determining how to achieve educational excellence. That is a partnership we must embrace with great fervor and with enough dedication that we will keep at it until the job is done.

Let me just give you one example. We're going to have to work together with the private sector to meet the important national goal of connecting every school and every library, every classroom and every library in America to the information superhighway by the year 2000. We have to do that. We at the national level can provide some seed money and some real influence in terms of reaching out to people everywhere to try to help them contribute. But you have to do that as well. People in the private sector in every State and county and community in America are eager to help.

Just later this week I am going out to California where, on one day, we will connect 20 percent of the classrooms in the State to the Internet in 58 separate counties. That's the downpayment on something that must sweep America in the next couple of years. We have to work together to clean the environment. And I won't repeat anything that Carol Browner said, but you and I know we have to be partners, whether it's in dealing with the Superfund issue or other challenges facing us.

I want to thank this group for the work you did in our development of a sustainable development plan for the future of America. You were consulted, you were involved, and I appreciate it. I was so glad to see one of the officers holding the report when I came in the door today. We have to do this together. We have to disabuse our people of the notion that you have to grow the economy by weakening the environment, and that we have to choose a good job over clean air, clean water, and a safe future.

The truth is, over the long run we cannot grow the economy unless we preserve the environment. And you and I have to take the

lead in doing that. We have to help working Americans become winners in this time of economic change. I suppose I've spent more time in community colleges than any President in history. I've done it because I believe that they symbolize the kind of institutions that America needs more of if we're going to solve our problems: community placed, driven by the needs of the moment, susceptible and flexible to the personal needs and desires of the individual students; not political in a negative sense, but political in a positive sense, in the sense that most of them are highly influential in terms of getting the resources and the support they need from the public and private sector to drive on into a better future. That's what we need more of.

And that's why I've challenged Congress to collapse 70 separate overlapping training programs into a single voucher worth \$2,600 a year that we can just mail to anyone as soon as they lose their job, and say, here, take this to your local educational institution and get back to work by learning and moving to a better future, not a darker one. That is the sort of support that we all need to give.

And, finally, let me say that we have had a remarkable partnership through the crime bill, a crime bill that was written after 6 years of haggling, and passed in 1994 largely through the influence of local law enforcement officials; a bill that provides funds for police, for punishment, and for prevention; a bill that is helping to move 100,000 police officers on the street. We are ahead of schedule and under budget in that endeavor because local law enforcement officials know how badly we need more police officers in community policing settings.

I am proud to say that this approach is working all over the country. I see rates of crime coming down: violent crime, property crimes, all kinds of crimes. But we have not succeeded and we cannot believe we have succeeded just because the crime rate is going down, first, because the crime rate among juveniles is going up; and, secondly, because we all know this country still has too many streets, too many neighborhoods, too many schools that are too dangerous and too violent. And we have to keep at it.

We cannot tolerate any attempt to repeal the crime bill and to move away from strategies that we know are working to lower the crime rate. I ask for your support to put more police officers on the street, to keep those prevention programs, and to stand up for giving America a future when we will once again be surprised when we turn on the television and see that a terrible crime has been committed. You want to know when we'll win the battle against crime? When you're surprised when you turn on the evening news and you read about some violent, outrageous, unforgivable act.

Sustained growth, a balanced budget, stronger families, safer streets, a cleaner environment, better education, welfare reform, health care for those who need it most; we can do all these things if we will do them together. You know, I know that a lot of people are so bewildered by the things that are going on in the world today, and I know that it is easy to get disheartened. And I read from time to time about how people have gone from being skeptical to being cynical. But I say to you, my fellow Americans, that is a luxury we cannot afford. If you went to work cynical every day it would be an excuse for you to do nothing, and soon you would be out of a job.

The only people in this country who can't be fired in their roles are citizens. The Constitution gives our citizens the right to vote or the right not to vote; the right to say what they believe or the right to keep silent. And, therefore, they ultimately have the right, if they choose, to be cynical. But I want to tell you something: This is a very great country. Most people in the world would still give anything to have the opportunities Americans have. Most wealthy countries in the world would give anything to be able to see a private sector vital enough to create the kind of jobs that have been created in this economy. And all the problems we have are simply because we are fortunate enough to be living at the time of most profound change this country has endured in 100 years.

Now, there are problems associated with that change. There is no change that is painless, ever. There never has been and there never will be. There is no such thing as a painless, consequence-free period of change.

But we should rejoice that we have been given the opportunity to serve the public at this moment in our history. And one of the things that you can do, because you are so close to the people, is to go back home and say, look, there is nothing facing this country we can't handle if we'll work together; and cynicism is a poor excuse for inaction and is the only thing that will determine our failure.

All my life I have believed it was wrong, fundamentally wrong, for any human being to be denied the opportunity to make the most of his or her own life. That is fundamentally what public life is all about. That is what your work is all about; that is what my work is all about. And a big part of that is involving our citizens in the process of getting through this period of change and transformation.

I believe if we do that the years ahead of us will be America's best years. And if we do it, you can take a full measure of pride and credit in that magnificent endeavor.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. at the Washington Hilton and Towers Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Douglas Bovin, president, and Michael Hightower, president-elect, National Association of Counties; and Carol M. Browner, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

## **Remarks to the People of Israel**

*March 5, 1996*

Good evening, and thank you, Ms. Dayan, for inviting me to speak to the people of Israel at this very difficult moment.

Over the last week the world has watched in horror as scores of innocent Israeli citizens have been murdered by suicide bombers. On behalf of the American people, I want to express my deepest sorrow and strongest outrage to the people of Israel and especially to the families and friends of the victims. As I have told Prime Minister Peres, I share your determination to do everything possible to bring this horror to an end and to bring those responsible to justice.

These fanatical acts are aimed not just at killing innocent people but at killing the growing hope for peace in the Middle East. Those responsible for these vicious crimes

thrive on division and conflict. They know a new day is dawning in their region. They know the vast majority of Israelis and Palestinians have chosen the path of peace. With every new step that is taken along that path, the enemies of peace grow more desperate. We must not allow their hatred to turn us back to the past. We must counter their senseless violence with resolve and action.

Those who committed the recent bombings brutally attacked Israelis. But make no mistake: The future they darken is their own. Instead of a life of security and prosperity, all they have to offer is violence, poverty, and despair. Chairman Arafat knows that his leadership and the hopes of the Palestinian people are under direct challenge. He must do everything possible to end this campaign of terror.

I have pledged to Prime Minister Peres that the United States will work with Israel and with our friends in the Middle East to stop the killing, to bring the criminals to justice, to permit the process of peacemaking to continue. Today, I announced a series of measures to support these critical goals. These include the immediate emergency transfer to Israel of sophisticated equipment for detecting explosives; the dispatch of American specialists to work with their Israeli colleagues on strengthening antiterrorism measures; the development of a comprehensive package of training, technical assistance, and equipment to improve antiterrorism cooperation among Israel, Palestinians, and regional governments; and urging our friends and allies all around the world to step up their own struggle for peace.

The United States has stood with you, the people of Israel, in times of triumph and tragedy. We stand with you today. Our nations both cherish the same ideals: freedom, tolerance, and democracy. And we know that whenever these ideals are under siege in one country they are threatened everywhere.

We have never been more determined to defend these ideals and to achieve our goal of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The road ahead will not be easy, but think how far you have come. Now is the time to redouble our efforts. Now is the time to be strong. Bullets and bombs must not prevail against the will for peace. And they will not.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at 1:30 p.m. on March 5 in the Roosevelt Room of the White House for later broadcast in Israel. In his remarks, he referred to Ilana Dayan, anchor, Channel 2 TV in Israel.

### **Remarks at a Memorial Service at the Embassy of Israel**

*March 5, 1996*

Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. Rabbi Simon, Mr. Krauser, Cantor Tasat; to my fellow Americans and all the people of Israel: The American people join in this time of grieving and loss. We mourn Israel's loss—we mourn Israel's terrible loss, and we share your outrage. We stand with you in your determination to bring this terror to an end and to bring to justice those responsible for the senseless violence that has afflicted the land of Israel and taken the lives of innocent people.

In moments such as these our anguish challenges our spirit. Daughters and sons, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, friends murdered—murdered solely for the blood running through their veins, solely because of where they live, solely because they wish to live in peace and harmony.

Our faith may be shaken, but at times like this it is all the more important to persevere. These fanatical acts were not aimed simply at killing innocent people, they were clearly aimed at killing the promise of peace. Those responsible thrive on division and conflict. It is almost as if they cannot exist without someone to hate, someone to kill.

They know a new day has been dawning in the Middle East. They know the vast majority of Israelis and Palestinians want a new day of peace. With every new step taken along the way, the harshest enemies of peace have grown more and more desperate. We must not allow them to prevail. The best way to defeat them is to first restore security and then bolster the peace they fear, that will take away their very reason for being.

We will counter the threat of terror with unshakable resolve. As I have pledged to Prime Minister Peres, the United States is working with Israel to stop the killing, to bring the criminals to justice, to step up the

struggle for peace. But just as important as the strength of our policies is the strength we must carry in our hearts.

I remember the story of Daniel. Because his faith never wavered, even in the face of those who betrayed him and had him cast into the den of lions, God delivered Daniel. Have faith, and I believe God will deliver Israel from those powerful vipers who have the ability to turn young men into mad suicidal mass murderers. Those awful people who would slaughter young children to defeat those who only want those children to grow up in peace and who, on this very night, have succeeded in terrifying every young child in Israel, who goes to bed tonight worrying about whether he or she will be the next to have their life cut short.

One of Sunday's victims in Jerusalem was a Palestinian nurse. She reminds us that the people of Israel are not alone, not only beyond their borders but within the borders. She lived and worked and ultimately died among her Jewish friends. I was struck by the words I read that her oldest son spoke. He said, "I'm angry at every person who kills. I'm angry at people who make hate and destroy. All the people who were on that bus were peaceful. They were civilians. They only wanted to go to work. There's no difference between you and me because we're human beings. We have eyes and hearts and souls."

Around the world, the world we see today, I believe the fundamental differences are no longer between Jews and Arabs or Protestants and Catholics or Muslims and Serbs and Croats. We see all over the world what the real dividing line is—between those who embrace peace and those who would destroy it, those who look to a future of hope and those who are trapped in a past of hatred, those who open their arms and those who insist on clenching their fists.

Once again under terrible burdens, the people of Israel must choose the fight against terrorism, to restore their security, to stand for peace. Once again as ever, the United States stands with you, shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart.

"*Ha-zak, ha-zak, vuh-neet ha-zake.*" May God bless the victims and cherish their souls. And may God bless Israel with the faith and courage of Daniel.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:04 p.m. in Jerusalem Hall at the Embassy. In his remarks, he referred to Israeli Ambassador Etamar Rabinovich; Rabbi Matthew H. Simon, president, United Jewish Appeal in Washington, DC; Peter B. Krauser, president, Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington; and Cantor Ramon Tasat, Agudas Achim Congregation.

### **Message to the Congress Transmitting Budget Rescissions and a Deferral**

*March 5, 1996*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report one revised deferral, totaling \$91 million, and two proposed rescissions of budgetary resources, totaling \$15 million.

The deferral affects the Department of State U.S. emergency refugee and migration assistance fund. The rescission proposals affect the Department of Agriculture and the General Services Administration.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
March 5, 1996.

### **Message to the Congress Transmitting the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee Report**

*March 5, 1996*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by section 108(b) of Public Law 98-373 (15 U.S.C. 4701(b)), I transmit herewith the Sixth Biennial Report of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (February 1, 1994, to January 31, 1996).

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
March 5, 1996.

**Remarks at a Swearing-In Ceremony  
for Barry McCaffrey as Director of  
the Office of National Drug Control  
Policy**

*March 6, 1996*

Thank you, Justice Ginsburg. I want to say a special word of welcome to Mrs. Jill McCaffrey, and to all of General McCaffrey's family who are here, to Attorney General Reno and Secretary Shalala, and our FBI Director, Louis Freeh, to Senator Biden and Congressman Zeliff, and to all the distinguished members of the Government and the military who are here.

I would like to begin with a simple and heartfelt thank you to General McCaffrey for accepting this call to lead our Nation's battle against drugs. Service to our country runs in his family. In fact, we have three generations of McCaffrey service in attendance here today, as you saw standing with me.

The general's father, Bill McCaffrey, who is here with his wife, Mary, is a retired lieutenant general who saw combat in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Two of his three children are pursuing careers in the military. His son, who is also here, drove all night from Fort Bragg, which is a testimony to the fact, General, that the physical training is still adequate to the task. *[Laughter]* He is an Army captain stationed at Fort Polk in Louisiana. His daughter, Tara, is an Army National Guard nurse. His other daughter, Amy, is a graduate student at Central Washington College.

The McCaffrey family is a shining example of what is right with America. We are fortunate to have their service and their presence here today.

General McCaffrey has faced down many threats to America's security, from guerrilla warfare in the jungles of Vietnam to the unprecedented ground war in the sands of Desert Storm. Now he faces a more insidious but no less formidable enemy in illegal drugs.

Drugs are as much a threat to our security as any outside enemy is today. They are a leading cause of crime and violence. They add literally billions of dollars to health care costs every year. There is a new CDC report that says that drugs are the cause of at least half—one-half of all the new HIV infections

in the United States. And drugs are imperiling our Nation's most precious resource, our children.

As I said in the State of the Union, if we ever expect to reduce crime and violence in our country to the low level that would make it the exception rather than the rule, we have to reduce the drug problem. We know it is a difficult battle. We know that overall drug use and crime are down in every segment of our society except one, our young people. And that makes the battle more difficult and more important.

The glamorization of drugs and violence is a big reason for this. That's why I worked so hard for the V-chip and for the television rating system. That's why we need to stop the glorification of drugs in our popular culture. And for those who say we should throw in the towel and just make drugs legal,<sup>1</sup> I say, not on my watch. I don't believe in that. That would be a mistake.

Over the last two decades we have made significant progress in this effort. Just in 1979, more than 22 million Americans used illegal drugs; 5 million used cocaine. Today less than 12 million Americans are regular drug users, and the number of cocaine users has dropped 30 percent in the past 3 years. But the problem is still too great, and I say again, it is perplexing and troubling as it affects our juvenile population. Drug use among people 18 to 34 is down. Casual drug use among people under 18 is up. That may be why the crime rate is down overall in our country, but random violence among people under 18—our children and our future—is still up.

Tomorrow General McCaffrey and I will have the opportunity to address this, along with others in the administration, at our National Conference on Youth and Violence. And this is a good way to kick it off, with his service.

In the last 3 years we have tried to take many concrete steps to protect our children and their future. We're working to get hard-core drug users off the street, to make sure they can't commit crimes, and to get them into treatment. We're bringing drug prevention to our schools by teaching our children

<sup>1</sup> White House correction.

that drugs are wrong, illegal, and dangerous. We've put more police on the street, and that is a major cause of the decline in the crime rate.

Two months ago I signed a directive requiring drug testing of Federal arrestees. We are doing all we can to stop drugs at their source, before they get to our borders. Just yesterday our U.S. Customs officials began seizing all imports of the sedative Rohypnol, which has been associated of late with date rape.

But General McCaffrey and all of us know that we have to do more. We have to do much more. There's no one more capable to lead this effort than Barry McCaffrey. He is America's most highly decorated combat veteran. He earned two Distinguished Service Cross Awards for extraordinary valor in Vietnam. He also earned two Silver Stars for heroism and three Purple Hearts. He served two tours in Vietnam, where he was severely wounded by enemy gunfire. He led the now famous left hook maneuver that crushed the Iraqi army in Desert Storm. And for the last 2 years he's been on the frontlines of our efforts to stop drugs at their source in his role as Commander in Chief of the United States Southern Command based in Panama.

As part of our counternarcotics team, he displayed decisive leadership in strengthening the efforts in Latin America, including forming one of the most successful international coalitions against drugs that has ever existed in that region. In addition to his heroism on the battlefield, General McCaffrey has distinguished himself as a man of ideas, a brilliant man of ideas, especially the one that Justice Ginsburg thought so much of that she mentioned a few moments ago.

He has always taken a comprehensive view towards problem solving, and he knows that our efforts in the struggle against drugs will require a combination of treatment, prevention, education, enforcement, and interdiction. Teamwork and coalition building are not just words to him; he has done it. Teamwork and coalition building literally saved his life and the lives of his soldiers. There is no doubt that he has the talent, the courage, and the vision to take up this fight.

But he cannot do it alone. As I said in the State of the Union, he's going to need

a larger force than he has ever commanded before, indeed, a larger force than he and his colleagues who have come from the Pentagon to join him today have ever commanded before. He's going to need every American doing his or her part if we are going to succeed. It means that we have to begin with parents talking firmly and clearly with their children, with our communities, our houses of worship, our schools, our employers, our national and community groups. The fight against drugs must in the end be a citizens campaign because every citizen has a direct stake in the outcome.

General, I want you to have the tools you need. For the last 3 years I have challenged Congress to do its part. In each of those years Congress has appropriated less than I asked for counternarcotics efforts in the Department of Defense and other agencies. America must never send its troops into battle without adequate resources to get the job done.

That's why, today, I am directing General McCaffrey to take the first step to make sure that we are adequately armed to fight this battle. As your first act of duty I direct you to prepare a plan to amend the 1996 fiscal year budget through reallocating \$250 million from the Department of Defense budget so that it can be added to our counternarcotics efforts. I will submit the plan to Congress this month. I'm also directing you to examine the fiscal year '97 budget to determine if a similar reallocation is needed.

We have to get after this. We have to get General McCaffrey off to a good start. I believe that he will get our country off to a good start. Our national security, the well-being of our children are at stake. We can create a safer, more drug-free society. We can do this if we work together.

As I have said many times in different contexts, when we are divided as a country, we defeat ourselves, but when America is united, we never lose. I believe Barry McCaffrey will help to unite America, and I believe he will help us to win this great and enduring struggle for our character, our soul, and the future of our children.

Thank you again, General McCaffrey, for laying down your four stars to reach for the stars. We appreciate you. Your country is

grateful. And I ask you now to come and say what's on your mind.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

### **Remarks on Presenting the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards**

*March 6, 1996*

Thank you. Let me say how delighted I am to be here today to be a part of this again. I want to begin by thanking a few people. First I'd like to thank Secretary Brown and all the others who are here from the Commerce Department for, I think, giving this country the best Commerce Department it has had in many, many decades. And I thank them for that.

Mr. Houghton and Mr. Bradshaw, I thank you and all your team for coming here today. And we want to especially welcome Mr. Houghton's brother, Congress' most prominent musician—[laughter]—Congressman Amo Houghton from New York.

I thank the Baldrige Foundation. Its Chair, Bob Allen is here. Thank you, sir, for your work. I want to thank the people in the White House who are my eyes and ears in outreach to the American business community, Mack McLarty and Alexis Herman.

Let me say, I have some remarks here I decided not to give because I want to just tell you a little bit from the heart what this means to me. When I became President I had worked for 12 years as a Governor, starting in a State with an unemployment rate that was 3 percent above the national average, and that never got down to the national average but one month until 1992, the last year I served. We decided that we had to build a partnership with business. We decided that America would not do well unless manufacturing came back, and we decided to put a special emphasis on the whole quality management approach, to make people who were committed to that feel welcome in our State. In the 1980's when there was a dramatic drop in manufacturing employment nationwide, it went up in our State. And we were proud of it, and we worked on it.

So I am very familiar with the Baldrige Award, with the memory of Secretary Baldrige and all those in both parties who have supported this award since its inception. And I just want to say a few words about what the significance of this is.

There's a lot of discussion today about whether things are good or bad in the American economy. The truth is, there's a lot of good, and there's some bad, because, as all of you know who are working in this arena, we are going through a period of breath-taking change, the most dramatic change in a hundred years, since we became an industrial society from an agricultural one. And that is forming great changes in the nature of work—there's more mind and less muscle in it—great changes in the nature of the workplace—there's not a person to waste, there has to be very high levels of productivity—great changes in the market—all the markets for money products and services are global now, either directly or indirectly. And that has put great new challenges on our society.

We should not underestimate, first of all, the importance of a commitment to productivity and to quality. It is the revolution which has occurred in American manufacturing, I am convinced, that has led the way to giving us the kind of economy, with declining deficits and lower interest rates, which has permitted the United States to create 7.7 million new jobs in the last 3 years, when the other six big economies in the G-7, together, have netted out at zero. It is not easy to create new jobs in the beginning of this technological revolution. So I cannot tell you how important that is.

The second thing I want to say is that that has been a model for me for what we should do in Government. Our State, when I was a Governor, had the first quality management program of any State government. And the Vice President's reinventing Government operation here has, obviously, had a significant impact on not only reducing the size of Government to its lowest in 30 years, getting rid of 16,000 pages of regulation but, more important, raising the performance level in many, many agencies.

The third thing I want to say is that one of the ways we have to manage this transition

is to continue to create more good high-wage jobs. And we can do that through the passage of specific legislation, as we did with the telecommunications bill, which passed with virtually the unanimous support of the Congress, Members of both parties, and which I believe and Secretary Brown believes will create millions of new jobs. That directly affects, obviously, Corning and this specific division, but it will indirectly affect all of America if we can create 3 to 3½ million more high-wage jobs. It will help people undergoing transitions in other companies to move to those new jobs.

The third point I want to make is that both of these companies have proved that you can have the right sort of partnership with the Government. The Secretary mentioned that both of them had done work with NIST, which is our technology division within the Commerce Department. The Commerce Department has done two things better than any predecessor, I believe, thanks to Secretary Brown and the others who work there. First of all, they've done a better job in opening the doors around the world for American businesses and American products. And secondly, they have tried to help, in a very effective way, manage the transition by investing in partnership with the private sector in important emerging areas of technology. And that is very important. That's the sort of thing Government ought to do, not deciding exactly how this economy will grow, not picking winners and losers but working with the private sector to provide that extra added measure of cooperation in the new technologies that will enable us to win.

The final thing I want to say is this: These two companies—and I want to say a special word here about Armstrong. Henry said that, well, Armstrong was not—it was a traditional manufacturing company, not a high-tech company. All manufacturing operations that are going to succeed have to be high performance companies. And they have to get the most out of their people. And they are managing this transition in the same way I'm convinced we have to manage it here: teamwork. The people who aren't here whose names we'll never know are just as important as the people who are here in the fact that

these two companies won these awards today.

And that's something we need to keep in mind here in Washington. If we had more teamwork we would be more successful at giving the American people a higher return on their tax dollar and in moving more quickly through this transition. That is what works. And in a time of transition you simply don't have the luxury of engaging in politics as usual, just like you can't engage in business as usual.

So that's the significance of this day to me. It's the validation of years and years of effort by people who believe in quality management. It's the validation of the proposition that we can create new opportunities for Americans if we work together to move into the future instead of running away from it. It proves that there is a proper role for the Nation's Government in a limited supportive way to help to create new economic opportunities, and most important, it shows that when we work together, we never lose.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to James R. Houghton, chairman and chief executive officer, Corning, Inc., and Henry A. Bradshaw, president, Armstrong World Industries' Building Products Operations.

### **Statement on the Report of the White House Conference on Aging March 6, 1996**

I was gratified today to receive the final report of the White House Conference on Aging, a comprehensive look at aging policy in America developed over 2 years with the input of more than 125,000 men and women. My deep thanks and appreciation go out to all of those Americans who contributed to this incredible grassroots effort.

These recommendations, which demonstrate strong support for many of the priorities I have been fighting for, including the preservation and protection of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, will be given every serious consideration by my administration.

### **Executive Order 12991—Adding the Small Business Administration to the President's Export Council**

*March 6, 1996*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 2), and in order to add the Small Business Administration to the President's Export Council, it is hereby ordered that section 1-102(a) of Executive Order No. 12131, as amended, is further amended by adding a new subsection (8) to read "(8) Small Business Administration."

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
March 6, 1996.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:45 a.m., March 7, 1996]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on March 8.

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders on Iraq**

*March 5, 1996*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102-1), and as part of my effort to keep the Congress fully informed, I am reporting on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with the resolutions adopted by the U.N. Security Council.

Since my last letter to you on January 4, 1996, on Iraq, the Government of Iraq has come no closer to meeting its obligations under applicable Security Council resolutions. The U.N. Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM), responsible for dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs, continues to find evidence that Iraq is hiding information on its past weapons programs. UNSCOM also found evidence as recently as a few months ago that Iraq continues to pursue acquisition of prohibited weapons technology. Iraq has made no progress either in accounting for nationals of Kuwait and

third countries missing since the occupation or in returning stolen Kuwaiti property. Saddam Hussein continues to provide safe haven for known terrorists. Given all this, the Security Council maintained sanctions without change at the January 5, 1996, review.

Saddam Hussein's unwillingness to comply with the norms of international behavior extends to his regime's continuing threat to Iraqi citizens throughout the country. We and our coalition partners continue to enforce the no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq as part of our efforts to deter Iraq's use of aircraft against its population. The human rights situation throughout Iraq remains unchanged. Saddam Hussein shows no signs of complying with U.N. Security Council Resolution 688, which demands that Iraq cease the repression of its own people. Iraq's repression of its southern Shi'a population continues, with policies aimed at destroying the Marsh Arabs' way of life and important environmental resources.

We continue to provide humanitarian assistance, along with international and humanitarian relief organizations, to the people of northern Iraq. Deteriorating security conditions forced us to issue notice in late January for all Americans in the area to exercise maximum caution in their activities. We have facilitated talks between the two major Kurdish groups in an effort to help them resolve their differences and increase stability in northern Iraq. However, Iran continues to look for opportunities to expand its influence in the area, as demonstrated by the visit of an Iranian Foreign Ministry official to the area in early January.

Pursuant to Security Council Resolution 986, Iraq is authorized to sell a prescribed amount of oil for the purchase of humanitarian supplies. In early February, the Government of Iraq sent a delegation to the United Nations to discuss the details of implementation of this Resolution. Nonetheless, it remains unclear whether Saddam Hussein is serious about using this mechanism to relieve the humanitarian suffering in Iraq. It is not clear whether Iraq will accept Resolution 986 as written, but the United States and other members of the Security Council have emphasized that the Security

Council will not agree to amending the terms of the Resolution.

The Multinational Interception Force (MIF) conducting the maritime enforcement of sanctions against Iraq has, since my last report, encountered the busiest enforcement period since 1991, diverting 24 dhow vessels carrying Iraqi dates worth an estimated \$3.5 million. Since October 1994, the MIF has diverted 50 sanctions violating vessels to Gulf ports with oil and date cargoes exceeding an estimated value of \$18 million. The expeditious acceptance of these violating vessels by the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Kuwait has greatly contributed to the deterrent effect of MIF sanctions enforcement operations. It has also enhanced enforcement efforts by allowing MIF vessels escorting the diverted vessels to return to patrol operations.

We continue to achieve a significant foreign policy objective in maintaining multinational participation in the MIF. Ships from the United States, Belgium, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom participated in MIF operations during the past 2 months. Additionally, we have received firm commitments from The Netherlands and Australia to send frigates to participate in the MIF from March through July of this year.

The United States continues to work with Honduras, the United Arab Emirates, and India concerning sanctions violations committed by vessels under their flags. Honduras has designated its mission to the United Nations to conduct deflagging proceedings for vessels of Honduran registry. India has initiated "registry deletion" proceedings against vessels operating under its flag.

The Commander of the U.S. Fifth Fleet, who serves as the coordinator for the MIF, recently completed a series of briefings for the U.N. Iraq Sanctions Committee. The briefings continued our practice of close coordination and consultation with the Sanctions Committee and members of the Security Council on the issue of maritime Iraq sanctions enforcement. In addition to enforcement of sanctions, the U.S. force presence in the region is intended to maintain the capability to respond rapidly to possible Iraqi aggression or threats against its neighbors.

Security Council Resolution 687 affirmed that Iraq is liable under international law for compensating the victims of its unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Although the U.N. Compensation Commission (UNCC) has approved some 790,000 individual awards against Iraq, worth about \$3.0 billion, it has been able to authorize the payment of only the fixed awards for serious personal injury or death (aggregating approximately \$13.5 million). The remainder of the awards cannot be paid because the U.N. Compensation Fund lacks sufficient funding. The awards are supposed to be financed by a deduction from the proceeds of future Iraqi oil sales, once such sales are permitted to resume. However, Iraq's refusal to meet the Security Council's terms for a resumption of oil sales has left the UNCC without adequate financial resources to pay the awards. Iraq's intransigence means the victims of its aggression remain uncompensated for their losses 5 years after the end of the Gulf War.

To conclude, Iraq remains a serious threat to regional peace and stability. I remain determined that Iraq comply fully with all its obligations under the U.N. Security Council Resolutions. My Administration will continue to oppose any relaxation of sanctions until Iraq demonstrates peaceful intentions through its overall compliance with all of the U.N. Security Council Resolutions.

I appreciate the support of the Congress for our efforts, and shall continue to keep the Congress informed about this important issue.

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 7.

### **Remarks Prior to Discussions With King Hussein of Jordan and an Exchange With Reporters**

*March 7, 1996*

#### **Middle East Peace Process**

**The President.** Let me say that I am delighted to have King Hussein here today, es-

pecially at this important time for the Middle East. As ever, the United States is grateful for his leadership and his courage. And I look forward to discussing with him today what we can do together to continue to stand against the forces of terrorism and for the forces of peace in the region. We'll have a number of other things to talk about, but I'm so glad that he's here.

**Q.** Your Majesty, what do you think the prospects are for resuming the peace negotiations? And what do you think the goal is of the bombings?

**King Hussein.** As far as I'm concerned, I'd like to thank you, sir, for giving me the pleasure and privilege of being with you here today and with our friends.

I would like to say that we are more than shocked; we are really angered by what we have seen in the way of violence in our part of the world. And we must do everything we can to put an end to this.

And I believe it is the action of a small group against an overwhelming majority of people in our region who are seeking peace, who have seen the taste of peace and the new beginnings and the breaking of a new dawn. I hope that they will be mobilized to do whatever they can to help and be vocal in the face of extremism. And I think the objective is very clear: These people are trying to scuttle the peace process and destroy all that has been achieved. And they must never succeed, and we will do whatever we can towards that end.

**Q.** Mr. President, is there anything else that the United States can do to help the Israelis and the Palestinians deal with these immediate threats?

**The President.** Well as you know, we've taken some extra actions in the last few days, and we'll be discussing other options in the days ahead. There may be some other things we can do, but I'd rather not discuss it now until we've actually made some decisions.

**Q.** Mr. President, Chairman Arafat has called for an international conference to map a strategy to combat terrorism. Do you favor such a meeting?

**The President.** Well, we've been in contact, obviously, with Chairman Arafat and with Prime Minister Peres and others about all the options, and we haven't ruled out any-

thing. We're working on the things that we ought to do, and we'll have some decisions in the next couple of days about where we go from here.

### **NAFTA**

**Q.** Mr. President, Canada and Mexico are both raising alarms with the Helms-Burton bill, saying it will violate NAFTA. What's your reaction to that, and would you maybe consider waiving the provision before the election?

**The President.** Well, I believe that the bill as now written permits compliance with international law, and that is why I said that I would support and sign it.

**Q.** Does it also—

### **1996 Election**

**Q.** Are you looking forward to running against Bob Dole?

**The President.** We ought to give it—I'm looking forward to getting everything settled down here and getting back to work in Washington. We need to go back to work. The main campaign we need to be waging now is a campaign for peace at home—I mean, peace abroad and prosperity at home. We've got a lot of work to do.

*[At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.]*

### **Middle East Peace Process**

**Q.** Mr. President, can you give us any reaction from Syria about the bombings in Israel? And are you satisfied with the actions of the Arab world so far?

**The President.** Well, I think that Chairman Arafat has made some real efforts, but I think that all of us will have to do more. And we're talking together, working together about what we can do to do more. And I have been in touch with all of our friends in the region and all the countries that are interested in what is going on there and all the countries that have a stake in continuing the peace process, and we're going to do everything we can to keep it going and also to combat terror.

**Q.** Do you think the peace process is endangered now, continuing, especially the Syria-Israeli track?

**The President.** Well, it doesn't help—what's happened. But I hope that if we all rally to the cause of peace and to the work of combating the terror, that that will permit the peace process to continue. I believe all the leaders want it to continue.

**Q.** If there was some—[inaudible]—against Iran, and the United States said that Iran is involved, would the United States back any action by Israel against Iran?

**The President.** Oh, I think it's inappropriate to speculate about such matters. I think that what we're going to do is to talk about what we can do to restore security, restore a basic sense of safety, and to keep going with the peace. And I think that's what we ought to focus on.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:07 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Remarks at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, Maryland

March 7, 1996

Thank you very much. Thank you, Mark, for your fine introduction and for your fine example, and for reminding us about why this is an important day for the United States. Thank you, Dr. Boorman, for recalling my previous trip to Eleanor Roosevelt. That was a great day. I must say, when I was there then talking about the national education goals, I didn't have any idea I'd be back here a few years later in this role to discuss this issue.

I'd like to thank the Members of Congress who are here, and my good friend, Secretary Cisneros, Governor Glendening and Lt. Governor Townsend; your county executive Wayne Curry, who was with me just yesterday in the White House telling me about how this is the best county in America. I thank Reverend Jackson and all the people from the entertainment community and the other leaders who are here from across America today at this national conference.

I also want you to know that there are two graduates of this high school who work in

the White House: one of my associate counsels, Cheryl Mills, and Andy Blocker, who works in Legislative Affairs. So I am a direct beneficiary of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, and I thank you for that.

When I leave you here we're going over to the conference with the delegates, but I wanted to come here with the Vice President and with General McCaffrey because, really, this conference is about you. And, frankly, this is a day when I wish that as President, it weren't my job to give a speech, that I could just spend the next hour or two sitting around visiting with a number of you and listening to you and talking with you about your future, because we're here to try to do what we can to make your lives safer and your future stronger.

You probably don't think about this very much, but already in your lives you have acquired different roles and different responsibilities, and they give you different perspectives. You are students and you're still children; you're sons or daughters. You may be brothers or sisters. If you have an association with organizations, you're in the ROTC or in an athletic club or in the band, you have obligations, doubtless, to your friends that have become more and more important to you as you get older.

That's the position that I find myself in today. I want to speak with you about this whole issue of crime and violence and drugs from the perspective of a President, the head of our Nation's Government, a citizen who understands that much of this work needs to be done in grassroots, citizens' community-based organizations, and the father of a high school-aged daughter. I see this whole issue in terms of what's good for families and what's good for the country.

You're old enough now that you're being confronted on a regular basis with tough decisions, where you have to choose right from wrong, dangerous from safe. What you may not know is that the decisions that you make also may be good or bad not only for this community but for your entire country.

That's what I want to talk to you about today: the decisions that I have to make as President to try to create more opportunity for you and a more secure environment; the decisions that we all have to make as citizens

to try to improve your future and your present; and, most important, the decisions that I hope you will make to choose life over death, to choose what is right for you over plainly what is wrong.

You are coming of age at the moment of greatest possibility in all of American history, where young people who are prepared for it will be able to have more options to live out the future of their dreams than any previous generation. And the technological revolution which is still a mystery to me is something that many of you just take for granted. It can be the most democratic instrument in our history. It can offer enormous opportunities to children who not so many years ago could never have had them just because they came up in poor households.

The other day the Vice President and I were in a school district in New Jersey that is in a poor neighborhood where most of the children come from immigrant families, the per capita income is way below the State average—and New Jersey is one of the two or three richest States in America. The school district was performing so poorly a few years ago that the State almost had to come in and close it and take it over.

But they got new leadership; major companies came in with a commitment to help. They put computers in all the classrooms for the kids, and then they even had computer hookups in the homes of these poor parents, many of whom had only been in our country for a few years. Within a matter of weeks, immigrant parents were e-mailing the principal to see how their kids were doing and whether they were doing their homework. Within 2 or 3 years, this district that was on the verge of failure and all these poor children on the verge of being denied the American dream had attendance rates and graduation rates and, most important of all, test scores above the State average in one of the wealthiest States in this country.

That can happen to America. That is the technological age we are living in. But the interesting thing about it, and the perplexing thing about it, is that technology is like every other tool of human beings; that's all it is. And in order for technology to work, it still has to be used by people who have good values, a strong background, and who choose

life, who choose their future, who choose what is right for themselves and their country.

Our Nation has a lot of challenges that we have to meet together if we're going to make sure the American dream is available for all young people without regard to their background, if we're going to see that our country remains the strongest country in the world, if we're going to see this country come together instead of being divided by race, by region, by income.

We're got a lot of challenges to meet. Some of them are obvious. We have to do a better job of strengthening all families and giving all children a chance at a good childhood through things like better nutrition programs and immunization programs and Head Start for kids who need it. We have to provide excellence in educational opportunities for a lifetime now, not even just for children kindergarten through 12th grade, through things like a better student loan program and more college scholarships and the national service program and the program that first brought me here, the national education goals, giving schools the grassroots tools they need to meet high national standards of educational attainment for all of our young people; through economic strategies to create more high-wage jobs in the places that don't have them. We've got a lot of work to do. But in the end, if you think about it, we cannot succeed in any of these challenges unless first we deal with the problems of crime and violence and gangs and drugs. For, in the absence of safety, people are not free.

I don't know how many of you saw—I'm sure many of you did—the gripping, painful pictures coming across our airwaves from the Middle East in the last few days, where innocent children were killed by suicide bombers bent on destroying the peace process in the Middle East. But I couldn't help—I was so moved by the interviews with children, with young people. And it struck me just so clearly there that Israel is a very great democracy, but if every child goes to bed at night afraid, it is not a free country.

And the same thing is true here. If you are imprisoned from within by drugs, or from without by a fear that you can't even walk down the street without looking over your

shoulder, this is not a free country and you are not a free person. And you can never be everything that you ought to be unless you are free. Part of it involves your choice to choose life and a future. Part of it involves what we can all do together to make sure that nothing takes that future, nothing takes that life away from you.

And that is in many ways our most fundamental mission, because from it all else flows: your mission to decide what kind of person you're going to be; our mission to decide what we're going to do to make sure you get the chance to become that person. And in our country it still means—even though the crime rate is down, even though drug use is way down from where it was at its peak—we still have a lot of work to do. We have to get rid of the guns that turn arguments into terrible tragedies, like the one that took the life of C.J. Brown. We have to take back our streets so that mothers and fathers don't have to be afraid when a son or daughter is waiting for a ride after work, like Julie Ferguson was on the night she was killed.

So that's why I want to talk to you about this. And I have a real perspective, I think, about the whole drug and crime and violence problem. I grew up in the sixties when most people your age—when I was your age, they just sort of got into this business. They didn't really believe drugs were dangerous until it nearly destroyed our generation. I heard General McCaffrey, who served with great distinction and valor in Vietnam, talking about, yesterday, how in our generation when we were younger, the United States military was nearly destroyed by it. I had a brother who nearly lost his life because of a drug problem. I know a lot about this.

And we have seen this incredible progress in the drug issue in the last several years where drug usage has gone way down, still going down among people 18 to 34, but now casual drug use going up again among people under 18. We have to stop that. We see the crime rate going down in America, the murder rate going down, the violence rate going down, but casual violence among people under 18 going up again. There are people in this conference with me today who've become friends of mine who once were mem-

bers of gangs and have devoted the rest of their lives to stopping young people from making that mistake, trying to get them to choose life. And we have to do that.

I tell you today, the most perplexing challenge facing us is how to make sure that drug use goes down among people who are under 18, that violence continues to go down among people who are under 18. We do not want to lose any more children. We don't want to rob any more people of their future. We have to fight these things whenever and wherever we see them.

Let me begin by saying that one of the most disturbing findings in a lot of the national surveys is that more and more young people in your age group, and maybe you're among them, seem to believe that drugs are not dangerous anymore. That is factually wrong. It's not only wrong about cocaine, it's not only wrong about methamphetamine; it's wrong about marijuana. It is just wrong. We know that the toxic content of marijuana alone, for example, is roughly 3 times greater than it was 30 years ago. It is not true that they are not dangerous. They are illegal and therefore wrong, but they are also dangerous.

And I'll say again, I nearly lost my only brother. I'm not just telling you as a President. This is not a political speech. This is a personal statement. And there is no reason for the people of this country who happen to be under 18 to start seeing drug use go up again and violence go up again when the future for you is the brightest future any group of Americans have ever known, if you can make the transition into this new high-tech age.

So no matter what we do with the laws and all the things that we should be doing, you have to make the right decision first. And I want to say, one of the reasons that we wanted to come here to have this conference at Roosevelt instead of some hotel or Government building is because of what you have done at this school; because the students, the teachers, and the parents of this school are doing such a remarkable job of fighting drugs and violence. They're not a perfect stranger here, drugs and violence, but this community has come together to send them packing. And I thank you for that. The way you're doing it is a lesson for all of America.

I've spent a lot of time saying what the Government can do and what the Government cannot do. We cannot solve the drug problem from Washington. We can't stamp out youth violence just by passing laws. We can't even do it by giving resources to local communities unless they are properly used. Each of us has our own role to play. Our Government has a responsibility which we have tried to fulfill. The crime bill we fought for in 1994 is helping to put 100,000 more police officers on the street. That helps to deter crime and it is working everywhere it's being used aggressively.

We banned 19 kinds of assault weapons, and you've already heard that we passed the Brady bill to require a 5-day waiting period before people can buy handguns. And tens of thousands of people who have criminal records now have failed to get guns. This is a safer country because of that.

We passed the "three strikes and you're out" law to put the most dangerous criminals behind bars for life. We are fighting against domestic violence as never before because of that crime bill. And we're trying to help thousands of schools to fight drugs and violence with drug education and gang prevention and increased security. We're supporting programs like the D.A.R.E. program, which I think is doing a wonderful amount of good in elementary schools throughout our country. I know that that can work.

We also made it a national Federal crime for any person under the age of 18 to carry a handgun except when supervised by an adult. Last year I fought for a law requiring every State to expel any student who brings a gun to a school for a year, no excuses. You have a zero tolerance policy for guns here at Roosevelt. We ought to have a zero tolerance for guns in every school in America. You should never worry about your safety when you're in school.

We've launched an aggressive campaign to crack down on advertising to convince young people to begin smoking. Cigarette smoking is now rapidly becoming the greatest cause of future health dangers to young people in America. Three thousand children start smoking every day, even though it's illegal in every State; 1,000 will have their lives shortened as a result. Don't let that happen

to you. If you don't smoke, don't start. If you started, stop. It could be the best thing you ever do for your health.

You heard General McCaffrey a few moments ago. The National Government has a responsibility that is embodied by General McCaffrey to do everything we can to try to stop the flow of drugs into our country, and to try to deal with it after it comes in our country, to try to help people who have already fallen victims to drug abuse. We're doing everything we can in that regard.

We also, in the crime bill, gave communities some funds that I'm struggling with the Congress to preserve now, not only to tell our young people they should say no to drugs, but to give young people in difficult circumstances more things to say yes to, more opportunities to be involved in positive activities and engaged in things that will help to build their lives. That is all our responsibility.

But General McCaffrey cannot do this alone. The President cannot do this alone. The Government cannot do this alone. That's why I say the things you've done here may count for more than anything else. I was given some notes before I came over here about your Grad Night program, which I think is a remarkable thing. Every school in the country ought to do that. Your parents know that peer pressure to use drugs and alcohol is always strong, especially on graduation night. But they want you to celebrate your achievement, not end your life. And I think it's a very impressive thing that businesses have supported this, parents have supported it; every year they throw you an all-night party. I don't think it's advisable every week, but I think once a year it's a pretty good idea.

For the benefit of the press and the others who are here, the seniors come to school at 11 p.m., give their keys and bags to their parents, load up the buses; they don't come back until 6 a.m. in the morning. They can spend the night swimming, playing basketball, dancing, eating all kinds of food. They even have a chance to win a car. I wonder if that gets the participation rate up. [*Laughter*]

Last year—listen to this—622 seniors here; 597 showed up to celebrate. That's an amazing thing. That's an amazing thing.

That's the kind of community spirit and commitment we need all across this country. And today, I want you to know that we're getting that kind of community spirit in other ways as well. Working with the drug czar's office, the leaders of a major American industry have come together to try to do their part.

We know the fight against youth drug abuse has to begin at home. We also know that a lot of parents don't always recognize the warning signs of drug abuse, and they're unsure about how they should approach their children when they do. Well, what can we do about this? We know that America can do a lot. When people need health advice, they normally turn to their family doctor. We know that the pharmaceutical industry sends sales representatives to see every doctor in his or her office in the entire country. Today I am proud to announce that the 15 major pharmaceutical companies in America are launching a \$33 million campaign to put the kind of drug education material that parents need in the hands of 400,000 doctors, so that they can give it to parents and we can work to stop this problem earlier.

We have some pharmaceutical executives who are here with us today. I'd like to ask them to stand up and be recognized. Where are they? Here they are. Let's give them a hand. Thank you very much, gentlemen. Thank you. *[Applause]*

All of us who are parents have a big role to play. We are the beginning of how children learn right from wrong. We are the beginning of what children believe about drugs and whether they're safe or unsafe, how wrong it is to break the law. But in the end, it still comes down to all of you and your counterparts all across America.

I will say again, you have a lot of responsibilities. You have responsibilities as students. You have responsibilities as children, responsibilities as members of various organizations. Your most important responsibility now is still to you. Your most important responsibility is to choose life. Your most important responsibility is to make the most of your own life. As my wife always says when we have a big argument around our house, life is not a dress rehearsal. That is your most important responsibility.

I know a lot of you have been pressured to do drugs before, and you will be again. And when I tell you you shouldn't do it, you look at me and say, "Look at that—he may be President, but he's still 50 years old and has gray hair. It's easy for him to say. *[Laughter]* I know that's what you must be thinking. And you're right. It is easy for me to say. But, believe it or not, all of us who—adults who are here today were once young, and we're not entirely without our memories. We understand what you're going through. And if we're lucky enough to be parents, we see it firsthand, up close.

There are things we can do: things I can do as President; things these pharmaceutical executives can do; things General McCaffrey and the Vice President can do; things the schools can do. But in the end, when you look at this from my perspective, when what I really want to do with the Presidency is to make sure every American has a chance to live out their dreams, I realize that if large numbers of our young people give up on their dreams, nothing I do will permit me to succeed. And I know there are other people that have a lot more influence than I do. A lot of these entertainers that you cheered for, you may listen to them more. My friend Charles Rayoff from Los Angeles, he used to be in a gang, now spends his life telling kids they shouldn't do that anymore. Maybe he's got more influence over the people on his street than I do. I know this: In the end, you're going to make the decisions about what happens to you; I'm not. And neither is anybody between me and you in the chain of command in our society.

So I say to you in closing, I believe that your future can be the brightest future any generation of Americans have ever enjoyed. I believe that the kinds of things you're going to be able to do because of the explosion of information and technology, because the world is drawing closer together, because America is—look around this room here. This is the most successful, multiracial, multiethnic democracy in all of human history. This is a great thing.

The rest of us, we'll keep doing our part. I want to say a word about Reverend Jackson—you clapped when he was introduced. A long time before either one of us knew

we'd be sitting here, 20 years ago—20 years ago next year was the first time I went with Jesse Jackson into a school to hear him give a speech to young people about staying off drugs. Twenty years ago, long before it was the fashionable thing to do, he was out there doing it. I thank you for that. Twenty years ago this year. [Applause] Thank you.

General McCaffrey will keep doing his part. He'll be a great role model and a great leader. But in the end, you have to do it. And let me say, I know most of you are doing the right thing. I get tired of hearing only the bad things about America's younger generation. Most of the younger generation is pretty great, and that's why we're doing as well as we are. I understand that. But if you're in doubt, don't do it. If you're in trouble, get help. If you're doing the right thing, don't be afraid to be a role model, don't be afraid to be a friend.

This country will be the greatest country in human history 50 years from now if we whip the problems that are afflicting childhood; if we give our children back their childhood; if when you turn on the television at night and you see some act of violence on the news, you are surprised instead of just deadened, "Well, that's what I always see."

We've got to make violence the exception, not the rule. We've got to make drug abuse the exception, not the rule. We've got to make the rule what I see out here when I look in your faces: young people who are committed to themselves, committed to their families, committed to their communities, committed to their own future. Choose life and we'll be all right.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:23 a.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Mark Anderes, student, and Gerald Boarman, principal, Eleanor Roosevelt High School; Gov. Parris Glendening and Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend of Maryland; and civil rights leader Jesse Jackson.

## **Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion at the White House Leadership Conference on Youth, Drug Use, and Violence in Greenbelt**

*March 7, 1996*

**The President.** Well, hello and good afternoon. Let me again thank all of you who are participating and all of you who came to the White House yesterday. I know that the event which we just held with the students at Eleanor Roosevelt was shown here, so I have no further introductory remarks. I'm anxious to get to the panel, except to say one thing briefly.

In the 12 years that I served as the Governor, when I had the opportunity not only to go to every community in my State but from time to time to travel throughout the country, I saw a modern example of what the framers of the Constitution intended when they set up State governments, and they basically devolved a certain amount of authority throughout our country. They wanted the States and, ultimately, communities to be laboratories of democracy. And they thought, the people who set our country up, that once in any laboratory a solution to a problem was found it would be like science, that that then would be adopted and people would go on to another set of problems.

What I think is happening in our country is that nearly every serious challenge we face has been dealt with brilliantly by somebody, somewhere, whether it's in education or in dealing with the crime problem or you name it. The one place where their laboratory of democracy probably fell down is that its human affairs are not like science, and very often, even though things are working well, they're not adapted, adopted, embraced as they should be.

So I think that all of you who are struggling and working to find ways to mobilize the energies not only of your communities but willing, then, to see it spread across the country are doing the most important thing you could be doing because it's the second half of what

the framers of the Constitution knew we'd have to do in order to meet all the challenges of the future. I mean, they couldn't have imagined the world that we live in now, but they set up a system that requires the second half—and you are that.

I thank you for being here. I'm anxious to go forward, and I'd like to begin by having, I think, about four opening statements, beginning with Joe Califano. And I want to begin by just thanking you, sir, for the work that you have done at your center and the work that you have done for so many years now to try to help people deal with all kinds of substance abuse problems. And we'd be glad to hear from you.

*[Joseph Califano, director, Center for Alcohol and Substance Abuse, thanked the President, commended the White House Conference, broadly linked cigarette smoking with drug abuse, and commended the President's effort to prevent cigarette smoking among youth.]*

**The President.** Reverend Jackson?

*[Civil rights leader Jessie Jackson thanked the President for his years of interest in the subject and then surveyed the students asking how many students knew people in their age group who had died or been jailed because of drugs, who knew fellow students who brought guns to school, and asked how many students had told school officials. He said that the lack of response to the last question demonstrated silent complicity with the drug and violence culture and added that the effort to win the war on drugs must be initiated as a struggle by youth. He linked the media and poverty to the drug and violence culture and added that the national response was to lock them up rather than to lift them up. He advocated targeting the base of the drug culture, like the enemy base in a war. He advocated a parents' coalition of 20,000 in 50 cities to get more deeply involved in their children's education, working with teachers to improve children's lives, as well as 100 ministers working with juvenile court judges to reclaim youth rather than jail them. He concluded by urging the young to rise up and be the warriors and leaders in the struggle.]*

**The President.** Let me just say, yesterday Reverend Jackson and I spent a few minutes

together in preparation for this day. And he went through what he was going to say. And the thing I want to say, quite apart from the incredible power of his remarks, is that he has given us a way to take what is working and to spread it across the country. And we now have to see if we're willing to do that.

Can you find 20,000 parents in 50 cities? Can you find this number of churches in 50 cities? Can we prove that we can take these—if you want to prove that you—we know objectively we can't jail our way out of the crisis, but we have never presented, frankly, a constructive alternative that we could spread across the country. You can build a jail in one city and another, and it looks about the same. This program or that program or the other program may not look the same in every community.

So the great—the enduring genius of what he has said today may well be his plan that would allow us to systematically make a difference across the country and offer us an alternative approach to this in the future. And I thank you, sir.

Jim—Mr. Burke.

*[James Burke, chairman, Partnership for a Drug-Free America, said there was not a single social issue in this country in which illegal drugs was not embedded. He then cited the progress made in recent years against drug use which he attributed to changing attitudes towards drugs. He said that the media had made a major contribution to changing the Nation's attitude toward drugs after Len Bias died. He advocated listening to the children and getting them involved in the solution.]*

**The President.** I would like to now call on a remarkable person who has probably laid a costlier sacrifice on the altar of our modern troubles than almost any other American, and who has responded by devoting her life to trying to help us work our way out of it, Dr. Lonise Bias. Thank you for being here.

*[Lonise Bias, mother of Len Bias who died a drug-related death in June 1986 and Jay Bias who was murdered in December 1994, advocated four essentials to resolve the program: unconditional love; community (come unity); faith in Jesus; and a commitment to character over image. She said that many*

*problems with our young people stems directly from the flow of information and that we must monitor the source of the information reaching our children. She said that when she started addressing young people, she spoke largely to the issues of drugs and self-esteem but that new issues constantly advance, such as violence, moral values, HIV/AIDS, and respect for authority and advocated changing our approach to adapt to the changing needs of young people.]*

**The President.** We have a number of distinguished people on this panel, and I'd like to—I think it's time we began with the young people and hear from them. So I will just call on them and then I want to call on some of the other panelists who are here who have done so many important things. But let me begin by asking Karen Lee, who is a senior here at Eleanor Roosevelt, who joined Students Against Violence a year ago, immediately after her classmate, Julie Ferguson, was abducted across from the school and killed. I'd like to ask her what has been happening here, what happened in the antiviolence program and where it's going, and what impact it's had on the students in the schools.

*[Ms. Lee said that after the death of classmates, students and faculty were scared, angry, and hurt, but decided to join together and fight against the violence. The group believed that violence is often the result of the lack of alternatives, and they tried to provide some of those alternatives, such as peer mediation, peer counseling and mentoring programs. The groups also worked to raise community awareness to the presence of violence and held memorials, candlelight vigils, and just simple gatherings to remind them of the past and give hope for the future.]*

**The President.** How many students here at the school are involved in it?

*[Ms. Lee said that Students Against Violence had approximately 20 very active members.]*

**The President.** Thank you. I want to come back to that in a moment with some of our other panelists, but I'd like to go now to Izaak Prado, who is a junior at a community school in Visalia, California. A former drug user, a former gang member who is in the second

phase of the Tulare County Juvenile Drug Court in Visalia, he's returned to school; he says his attitude and his outlook have changed and that in his program associated with the drug court he attends mandatory drug counseling, sets goals, and learns from the experience of older men about how to handle peer pressure and stay away from drugs.

There are a lot of people talking here today; you've actually had to walk the walk. And I thank you just for having the courage to sit up here on this panel. I would like to ask you to make whatever statement you would like to make about your experience and what you would say to other young people and what you think you could do to make a difference there.

**Mr. Prado.** Well, I'm here because I got in trouble. I got in trouble for possession.

**The President.** I just want to make sure they can hear you. I think they turned the mike up. That's good.

*[Izaak Prado described the program and how his attitude had changed toward drugs and gangs and said that the program should be expanded nationally.]*

**The President.** Could you tell the people who are here how you happened to be placed in the drug court when you were arrested, or whatever happened to you? How did you wind up going into the drug court?

**Mr. Prado.** Well, I was arrested, and I was sent to see the judge. And since my case was in affiliation with drugs, they gave me an opportunity to come into the program.

**The President.** You had the choice about whether to go into the drug program or be punished conventionally in the criminal justice system, right?

**Mr. Prado.** Yes. And I chose to be part of the program. And it's not like you can just drop out of the program if you feel you can't complete it. You know, once you make it, it's a commitment, and you have to stay in it for approximately 9 months.

**The President.** Let me say that a lot of people here in this audience will be familiar with the drug courts, but one of the first ones in the country was established in Miami. And I happened to have, just by family accident, the exposure to it many years ago because

my brother-in-law was the public defender in the drug court. So I have sat for hours on end on two different occasions in the Miami drug court. And all the people there also have to voluntarily choose to be in the drug court's jurisdiction to choose the path of rehabilitation to avoid automatic jailing of people who just got into this.

And one of the parts of our crime bill that we're still struggling to preserve funding for is a small stream of money to help people establish these drug courts around the country. And you're a pretty good walking advertisement for it, and I thank you for what you've done.

I wonder if any of the other panelists would like to ask Izaak a question before I go on to anyone else. Anyone have a question you want to ask him?

Well, I thank you. You hang in there.

*[Reverend Jackson asked Mr. Prado if he was afraid that after he leaves the program he will return to drug use. Mr. Prado said that when he started he thought he would but that the program had changed his attitude.]*

**The President.** You heard Dr. Bias say it's what happens in your mind that's the most important thing. So, you hang in there. We're for you.

I'd like to ask Margaret Alstaetter, who's here to my left, a freshman at Wilmington College in Ohio, and she's the Students Against Drinking and Driving Student of the Year. To raise awareness of alcohol-related issues, she coordinated a mock accident, planned public service announcements, organized Red Ribbon Week activities, and conducted a lot of other projects involving local elementary schools and young people.

And so I'd like to ask her to say whatever is on her mind and ask her whether she thinks the SADD movement has helped to change the attitude of students about what is or is not the cool thing to do, or is or is not an acceptable thing to do, and whether or not it—whether having a chapter like this at every college and at every high school in the country would make a difference in the culture, to go back to what Mr. Burke said about our ability to change people's views of this. But talk a little about your own experience and tell us what you think.

*[Ms. Alstaetter discussed SADD's main program, the Contract for Life, and described its main components of empowerment, caring, and prevention. She said that SADD is not a set program but something that each chapter designs for itself, her chapter working closely with drug-free programs in elementary schools. She described Red Ribbon Week in which high school students develop entertainment with anti-drug themes and present them to elementary school students, and described several special days with anti-drug themes.]*

**The President.** Thank you very much. Let me ask you this: How many people are in your organization?

**Student.** In my high school, we have about 70 active members.

**The President.** That's good.

**Barry McCaffrey.** Let me, if I may, intervene. We're scheduled to terminate at 1:15 p.m., but, Mr. President, knowing how valuable your time is, nonetheless you did make me your Drug Czar. So could we go beyond this to 1:30 p.m., do you think, to get some of the power of these comments out on the table?

**The President.** He's only been out of uniform for a few days, and he's already off schedule. *[Laughter]*

I would like to stay very much until at least 1:30 p.m., until we hear from everybody. Thank you very much, General.

Let me say, I think—I wanted you to hear from these three students. Now, I'd like to come back and sort of pick up the issues, starting with—Karen talked about school violence and I would like to call on a couple of people now to discuss how they have dealt with it.

Carl Cohn is the superintendent of the Long Beach Unified School District in California. It's the third largest school district in California; there are 81,000 students in this school district. And 2 weeks ago, I went to his school district to one of the schools there, named for the great American baseball player, Jackie Robinson. And he was, as far as I know, the first major school district in the country to implement for elementary and junior high school students a school uniform policy.

I went out there because we had worked, particularly through the Attorney General's office and through the Department of Education, through Secretary Riley, to make sure that the school district and that others who wish to do the same thing could do so legally, explain how it could best be done, and then put together a handbook which you could then mail to every school district in the country explaining how Long Beach had done what they've done and how a school district who was interested in this could do it.

And when I first heard about it and, indeed, when I mentioned it in the State of the Union Address, my last State of the Union Address, I always try to keep up with the reaction—on balance, it was the most positive reaction I ever got, except for all of the nasty letters I got from kids saying, "How dare you suggest that school uniforms would be a good thing. It would be the most boring, awful thing that ever happened, our liberties would be trampled," and in one fell swoop, one remark, I turned myself into an old fogey before the entire country. But I must say, having gone out there, since the State of the Union, I think that at least every American needs to hear about the Long Beach experience, particularly in light of what Karen said and others have said.

So, Carl, the floor is yours.

*[Mr. Cohn said that since introducing the uniforms, there had been a dramatic reduction in school crime at the elementary and middle school level.]*

**The President.** Let me just inject a couple of facts here, in case any of you are thinking about this. First of all, there was not a uniform school district policy. He allowed every school, by some process or another, to choose their uniforms. And they were basically just comfortable school clothes, like I saw one of the young people was in a—the uniform for the boys was blue slacks and a white shirt with a collar every day. It wasn't—and there was some variation within that. And then the uniform for the girls was the same thing or a skirt.

And each school got to choose their own colors and got to decide what the parameters of the uniform were. If the school chose, the teachers and the principal also wore the uni-

form, but that varied by school. But the young man that he mentioned, for example, said his school was located in a high crime area where the gangs associated gang membership with the colors red and blue, so the school chose black, white, and green for the school uniform. And to see this young attractive African-American student saying, "I don't have to look over my shoulder anymore when I walk to and from school, I feel safe," that's worth something.

The other student who spoke was a young—I think a 13 year old student, who is a terrifically powerful young woman who said that she felt one of the reasons that the learning had gone up and discipline and behavior problems had gone down is that it gave all the children a sense of unity and that all of them were being judged based on what was on the inside, rather than on the outside. It's interesting. And in that sense, she said she thought the children who came from well-to-do families were helped as much by the policy as children who came from poor families. And they also had to set up a system so kids who came from families who couldn't afford it and all that, and they covered all that.

But if you have any interest in this I would urge you to write to Carl because it's hard to quarrel with the results and what the kids said. Maybe it's not the thing for every school district and every school, but they had a lot of problems and to see them drop in a breathtaking fashion I think is a real tribute to the courage and vision of the people of that school district. And I thank you for what you did.

*[Reverend Jackson said that the program worked in both wealthy schools, where the students focus on lap tops rather than boom boxes, and not-so-wealthy schools, where poor students don't have to try to keep up. He suggested that the program should go one step further and require that the students sew their own clothes.]*

**The President.** Before you laugh too much about the last comment Reverend Jackson made, let me remind you that the most famous cloth spinner of the 20th century was Mohandas Gandhi. That was his main non-work activity.

So I'd like to call on Yvonne Green who is the director of the safe schools initiative in and around East Capitol and Marshall Heights in Washington, DC. She has a very challenging job. And she is helping to establish the kind of school and community partnerships that the rest of us so often talk about. So I'd like to ask her whether the Safe and Drug-Free School funds out of the crime bill have helped her and what she's done with it and what she thinks it's making a difference.

*[Ms. Green, director, Safe and Drug-Free Schools, briefly described her program to make the communities safer and more education-friendly. She said one of the current initiatives was setting up a community mediation team and described mediation training in the community. She described funding of the program through the drug-free schools program and suggested that when there are school-community partnerships, that somehow the funding be made available to both groups, making both groups responsible and accountable for the funds and the outcome.]*

**The President.** Thank you very much. That's a very good idea.

Now, if you will remember, Izaak said that he was involved in the drug court system in his hometown of Visalia, California. I'd like to call now on Judge Jeff Tauber, who is here, who initiated the design implementation of the Oakland drug court program, which was one of the Nation's first. He's now president of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, and he advises Federal, State, and local agencies about how to establish these drug courts.

So I'd like for him to talk about this. In view of—you heard the statistics Reverend Jackson mentioned. We know more than half of the individuals that come into the criminal justice system in the country have some sort of a substance abuse problem. And I'd like for him to tell me what he thinks the results are from the drug courts that have been established enough—in time for us to evaluate them and what he believes the future of the drug courts movement is.

*[Judge Tauber briefly described the drug courts program and their community base, indicating that research shows that the pro-*

*gram dramatically reduces recidivism by 40 to 60 percent. He described how the drug courts have successfully collaborated with other organizations and other agencies in the communities.]*

**The President.** I want to open the floor if anybody has questions of Judge Tauber. But I want to emphasize to all of you—remember Izaak's story. Not only are these courts reducing the recidivism rates, these people are not going to prison in the first place—they are not going to prison in the first place. And as far as I—the only courts that I've any experience with, the option to go through the regular system or to go into the drug court, since the drug court imposes certain responsibilities on the defendant going in, is left with the person who is charged, as it was in Izaak's case.

But I think the question of what the aggregate impact on this country would be if every community of any size had a court like this—which requires a community support system because you've got to show up on a regular basis and all that—is quite significant. And the one I watched in Miami for long periods of time on two separate occasions, the whole atmosphere was different, the chemistry of the court was different, the way that the defense lawyer and the prosecutor and the judge related to each other was different, because they knew what they were trying to do was to save the defendant and in the process get the law observed and make the community safer.

It's a very exciting thing. I would like to see it done everywhere. And I think what you're doing is very important.

Would anyone like to ask any questions of Jeff before we go on?

**Judge Tauber.** I would like to add one thing if I may. I just wanted to thank you and this administration for its support of drug court and the Attorney General and the Department of Justice, because I think that we had the opportunity to grow and to grow in a very, I think, a very thoughtful and responsible way because of that support.

**The President.** Thank you.

**Judge Tauber.** Thank you.

**The President.** Now, if you remember, our third young person, Margaret, talked about the Students Against Drunk Driving

and what they were trying to do to keep our young people sober and drug free. I'd like to now call on Kurt Landgraf, who is the president and CEO of DuPont Merck Pharmaceutical Company, who is now the representative of the National Pharmaceutical Council here. And he will discuss the \$33 million program I announced in my speech.

I say this because we know that the students need help and support at home. We also know, whether you believe—you know, there's this endless debate that started that basically was the study of people who had an alcohol addiction, about whether it's all a matter of weak will and bad habits or whether some people are biologically predisposed to it have problems. We know that whether you believe it's totally determined or not, there are all kind of differences both in the home situation and in people's makeup that makes it more important than ever that we get the parents involved early, making good decisions and understanding what to do.

So I'm excited about this and I'd like to ask Kurt just to talk a little bit about this program, why the pharmaceutical companies decided to do it and how they expect it to work.

*[Mr. Landgraf described the National Pharmaceutical Council initiative, using 17,000 sales reps from 15 companies in the pharmaceutical industry to provide information developed by the Office of Drug Control Policy to health care professionals to identify and help parents to identify persons at risk in terms of drug abuse. On a more personal note, he indicated that the drug industry was involved for three reasons: Once you become aware of the problem, it is essential for business to participate in the solution; the industry has the resources to effectively implement the program; and finally, if no action was taken, it would effect the children, including his children, and nothing was more important than the children.]*

**The President.** Thank you. I want to say a special word of thanks to you, sir, not only to you, individually, but to the people in your business. You know the United States has the most successful pharmaceutical industry in the world. And it depends, in part, for its

success on a decent partnership with the Federal Government, especially through the Food and Drug Administration.

And the statement you have just made is the statement that I think is very important, that in many respects the collective influence of American business practices is far greater on the American people than the influence of the Government is, and that's as it should be in many respects because we have a free enterprise system, we believe in a private economy and it has served us rather well.

But the statement you just made is a very important statement—that even in a global economy, when you have to worry about the worldwide competition, the home base still matters. And in the end business has to be able to do well by doing good, because America must be strong for the private economy to flourish. And that's a very important statement, and I thank you for it.

I have intentionally saved for last among our panelists—and I want to give the Governor a chance to say a word as we close—but the sheriff of Jacksonville, Florida, Nat Glover, because he is one of the most unusual success stories in our country. He was elected sheriff in a community in which is a majority white community, and which is also a majority of the other political party. *[Laughter]* And he was elected sheriff because people of all races and both political parties and all backgrounds trusted him to take the lead in lowering the crime rate and making the streets safer. It wasn't a political issue, at all; it was a human issue.

And he was elected by promising, in effect, to have his office on the street. And I had the extraordinary opportunity to spend a day with him, not just at a rally of young people giving a talk, which I got to do, but actually walking the streets and watching him relate to people, the young and old alike, and seeing how they looked at him as the source of energy for delivering them from their own fears. And it was an extraordinary thing.

So I wanted him to talk about what he's done in relating to the community and what the successes have been and to just thank him publicly for being a role model for law enforcement around the country. But I'd like to ask him to say a few words and maybe

reflect on what he's heard here today and what he's trying to do in Jacksonville.

Sheriff Glover.

*[Mr. Glover thanked the President for the conference and stated that his community-oriented policing strategy was working. He described the transition of a low-income community after putting 31 officers in the community.]*

**The President.** Thank you.  
Governor.

*[Gov. Parris Glendening thanked the President and described how violence touches individuals in the community. He indicated that he had talked with a pastor in a Montgomery County church where there had been 68 funerals for the church, 25 percent from gun violence, and described how his wife's was robbed 5 years earlier. He said that while community efforts were important, personal responsibility was key.]*

**The President.** Thank you very much. As we—yes, Jesse? *[Laughter]*

*[Reverend Jackson said that he believed this could be a turning point in the war on drugs, and he supported the community policing initiative but he noted that police corruption must be held in check, allowing police to become the true leaders at the grassroots. He then asked that students who will be 18 years old by November and who are registered to vote.]*

**The President.** That's pretty good.

*[Reverend Jackson then asked that students who will be 18 years old by November and who are not registered to stand. He encouraged all those students to register and vote in November for a better future.]*

**The President.** I would like to thank Eleanor Roosevelt again for hosting us and thank all of the others who made this possible. I want to thank the panelists. I hope all of you who came to this conference got something out of their moving statements, their personal experiences, and perhaps some ideas you can take home. I want to assure you that the Vice President and General McCaffrey and I and the other members of our Cabinet will read the reports of all the various sessions of this conference.

I have only two regrets as I leave here. One is that we couldn't spend all day hearing from all the young people who are here. And the other is that we couldn't spend all day listening to all the people who are here from the conference who could have just as well been on this panel.

I want to thank you for the life you're leading, the work you're doing. Many of you out there in this audience I've had some personal involvement with, and I feel personally indebted to you—you know who you are—and I thank you for that.

This is our country's great challenge. And if you look at these fine young people that were here, the rest of us owe it to them to meet it. And I feel more optimistic than I did before I came here today that we'll do exactly that.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. in the auditorium at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

## **Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus**

*March 7, 1996*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)*

In accordance with Public Law 95-384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question. The previous submission covered progress through November 30, 1995. The current submission covers the period December 1, 1995, through January 31, 1996.

The continuing lack of a solution on Cyprus is in marked contrast to the recent advances achieved in Bosnia and the Middle East. My Administration remains committed to pursuing a settlement in 1996. We are confident that if the parties to the dispute are prepared to engage seriously and with flexibility, we can move to active negotiations and to a final settlement, which creates a bizonal, bicomunal federation. We will need the full support of Greece and Turkey for our efforts. My Special Emissary, Richard Beattie, travelled to Cyprus in December for further discussions with the two Cypriot leaders. The progress he made, although modest, gives us

a basis to pursue our initiative once circumstances in the region are more favorable.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the U.N.-sponsored settlement process and Cyprus' course toward accession to the European Union (EU) affect each other. For that reason, my Administration will strive to ensure the closest possible coordination among efforts by the United Nations, the EU, and ourselves to address the question of Cyprus.

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

### **Statement on the Report of the President's Council on Sustainable Development**

*March 7, 1996*

I was pleased tonight to accept a report from my Council on Sustainable Development, an advisory group which I established to outline a new direction in environmental policy. In my State of the Union address I said that the era of big Government is over, but I also said that we can't go back to a time when citizens were left to fend for themselves. As we move toward a new, smaller Government, citizens must work together to tackle the challenges of a new century. We must reach across the lines that divide us to find common ground.

When I first appointed the Council almost 3 years ago, some of them knew each other only as adversaries. But with this report, they have shown us the power of partnership. They have demonstrated that when business, environmentalists, and Government work together in good faith we can pursue simultaneously the goals of economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental quality.

This report will make a major contribution to the challenge I set forth: to enable all our people to make the most of their own lives with stronger families, more educational opportunities, economic security, safer streets, a cleaner environment in a safer world. I want to thank all who contributed to making this difficult undertaking such a success.

The work, however, is not finished. This report will not sit on a shelf gathering dust. Instead, I am announcing the following actions: First, I ask the Council to continue its work in order to begin implementing some of its recommendations. I hope Jonathan Lash and David Buzzelli will continue to serve as co-chairs through December. Second, I have asked the Vice President to lead these efforts within the administration. Finally, I will ask White House offices and Federal agencies to support the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Association of Counties in establishing a new Joint Center on Sustainable Communities. This new partnership will work to implement the recommendations in this report in communities across the Nation.

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Report on International Agreements**

*March 7, 1996*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)*

Pursuant to subsection (b) of the Case-Zablocki Act, (1 U.S.C. 112b(b)), I hereby transmit a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements.

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. An original was not available. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 8.

### **Remarks to the People of the Middle East**

*March 8, 1996*

Greetings to all the viewers of "Dialogue With the West." I'm pleased to have this opportunity to speak with you today. This has been a difficult week for all of us who have cherished the growing prospects of peace in the Middle East and Israel. Dozens of people lost their lives to an inhuman campaign of terror.

Think about the victims for a moment. Each was a human being; a son or a daughter,

a husband or a wife, a mother or a father. Each wanted only to live and to love, to work and to dream in a land of peace.

Those responsible for these terrible acts have but one aim: to stop the peace process that so many people throughout Israel and the Arab world so strongly desire. The enemies of peace know that a new day is dawning in the Middle East, a day in which all its peoples can enjoy the simple blessings of a normal life. With each new step along the way, these enemies grow more and more desperate, and so they sow the seeds of division and conflict, of hatred and destruction.

But make no mistake: The future they darken is their own. For instead of a life of security and prosperity, all they have to offer is violence, poverty, and despair. We must not allow them to prevail. If we do everything we can to strengthen the peace they fear, they will not prevail.

In the midst of this week's horror, there was one especially powerful moment of hope. In Gaza City, 10,000 Palestinians came together to make a simple, urgent plea: Say no to terrorism, say yes to peace. They know that their own dreams and aspirations are at risk, to provide for their loved ones, to raise a family in security, to see their own children enjoy lives free from violence and full of possibilities. And they understand a truth that we see all around the world.

Today the fundamental differences are no longer between Arab and Jew or Protestant and Catholic or Muslim, Serb, and Croat. The dividing line today is between those who embrace peace and those who would destroy it, between those who look to the future and those who are locked in the past, between those who open their arms and those who still clench their fists. Each of us must decide which side of the line we are on; the right side, the only side, is the side of peace.

Now more than ever, the choice we make matters. Choose peace.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at 2:15 p.m. on March 7 in the Roosevelt Room in the White House for later broadcast. These remarks were released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 7 and were embargoed for release until 1 p.m., March 8.

## **Statement on the National Economy** *March 8, 1996*

Four years ago, I said if America met its economic challenge by bringing down the deficit, investing in education and training, rewarding work, and opening markets, we could spur a strong recovery that could help this economy create 8 million jobs in 4 years. It is a tribute to the hard work, ingenuity, and strength of the American people that our economy has created more than 8 million jobs in just 3 years instead of 4.

Even as we celebrate the creation of 8.4 million jobs, we must remember that much more must be done to ensure that our economy is working for all of our working families. This is no time to rest or move backwards. To keep America's job machine humming and our economy growing, we must get back to work on balancing the budget in a way that puts our people first.

## **Notice—Continuation of Iran Emergency** *March 8, 1996*

On March 15, 1995, by Executive Order No. 12957, I declared a national emergency with respect to Iran pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706), to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Iran, including its support for international terrorism, efforts to undermine the Middle East peace process, and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. On May 6, 1995, I issued Executive Order No. 12959 imposing more comprehensive sanctions to further respond to this threat.

Because the actions and policies of the Government of Iran continue to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, the national emergency declared on March 15, 1995, must continue in effect beyond March 15, 1996. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emer-

gency with respect to Iran. Because the emergency declared by Executive Order No. 12957 constitutes an emergency separate from that declared on November 14, 1979, by Executive Order No. 12170, this renewal is distinct from the emergency renewal of November 1995. This Notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
March 8, 1996.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:56 a.m., March 8, 1996]

NOTE: This notice will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 11.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting the Notice on Iran**  
*March 8, 1996*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Iran emergency declared on March 15, 1995, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 1996, to the *Federal Register* for publication. This emergency is separate from that declared on November 14, 1979, in connection with the Iranian hostage crisis and therefore requires separate renewal of emergency authorities.

The factors that led me to declare a national emergency with respect to Iran on March 15, 1995, have not been resolved. The actions and policies of the Government of Iran, including its support for international terrorism, efforts to undermine the Middle East peace process, and its acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, continue to threaten the na-

tional security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Accordingly, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities that are in place by virtue of the March 15, 1995, declaration of emergency.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
March 8, 1996.

**Proclamation 6870—National Park  
Week, 1996**  
*March 8, 1996*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

**A Proclamation**

For millions of visitors every year, America's 369 national parks serve as living examples of the diversity, history, and natural wonders that have always defined this country. We owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women of the National Park Service, whose outstanding work to preserve and protect these treasures ensures that they will be available to educate and enrich generations of Americans to come.

The National Park Service also reaches beyond the boundaries of our parks to share knowledge and expertise with other nations, State and local governments, American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives, agencies, and thousands of organizations and individuals. National Park Service programs are helping community leaders to create green spaces in urban areas from Seattle to Philadelphia; to rehabilitate the historic canal in Augusta, Georgia; and to return grey wolves to Yellowstone, red wolves to the Great Smoky Mountains, big horn sheep to the Rocky Mountains, and the peregrine falcon to parks nationwide.

Our national parks benefit from the work of many citizens dedicated to environmental stewardship and historic preservation. By working directly with the National Park Service or through the National Park Foundation, its congressionally chartered nonprofit corollary, park partners sponsor educational programs, raise funds, provide visitor services, and donate time and materials to support our

great public resources. These partners include the Student Conservation Association, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and hundreds of other interested organizations. Drawn from corporations, associations, and communities everywhere, over 100,000 Americans volunteer annually to keep our park system strong.

This year, National Park Week is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the commitment of the National Park Service and its partners to America's unique historical, cultural, and natural heritage. I urge all the people of the United States to learn more about our national parks, the programs available in their communities, and to seek out opportunities to become a national park partner.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 22 through April 28, 1996, as National Park Week.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 11, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 12.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **March 3**

In the morning, the President returned to the White House from Camp David, MD.

#### **March 4**

In the morning, the President traveled to Detroit and Taylor, MI. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

#### **March 5**

The President announced his intention to nominate Harold Walter Geisel as Ambassador to Mauritius and the Comoros.

#### **March 6**

The President announced his intention to nominate Ginger Ehn Lew to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

#### **March 7**

In the late morning, the President traveled to Greenbelt, MD, and returned to Washington, DC in the afternoon.

The White House announced that Agency for International Development Administrator J. Brian Atwood will lead the Presidential delegation to the inauguration of Jorge Sampaio as President of Portugal on March 9 in Lisbon, Portugal.

#### **March 8**

In the morning, the President traveled to Los Angeles and Van Nuys, CA, where he toured the assembly line and addressed employees at the Harman International Industries plant. In the afternoon, the President traveled to Malibu, and in the evening, he traveled to Concord.

The White House announced that the President and President Hosni Mubarak have invited regional and international leaders to join them for the Summit of the Peacemakers in Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt on March 13.

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### **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

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#### **Submitted March 6**

Eric L. Clay,  
of Michigan, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, vice Ralph B. Guy, Jr., retired.

Joseph F. Bataillon,  
of Nebraska, to be U.S. District Judge for  
the District of Nebraska, vice Lyle E. Strom,  
retired.

Harold Walter Geisel,  
of Illinois, a career member of the Senior  
Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor,  
to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-  
potentiary of the United States of America  
to the Republic of Mauritius and to serve  
concurrently and without additional com-  
pensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of the United States of  
America to the Federal and Islamic Republic  
of the Comoros.

Aubrey Hooks,  
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior  
Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor,  
to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-  
potentiary of the United States of America  
to the Republic of the Congo.

Robert Krueger,  
of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary of the United States of  
America to the Republic of Botswana.

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### **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office  
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as  
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of  
Other White House Announcements.

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#### ***Released March 5***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-  
retary Mike McCurry

Announcement of the President's request to  
Congress for \$914.3 million in emergency  
supplemental appropriations

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry  
announcing the President's acceptance of  
recommendations for responding to terrorist  
attacks in Israel

#### ***Released March 6***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-  
retary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by Director of  
the Office of National Drug Control Policy  
Barry McCaffrey on the national drug control  
strategy and the White House Leadership  
Conference on Youth and Drugs

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Cir-  
cuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Dis-  
trict Judge for the District of Nebraska

#### ***Released March 7***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-  
retary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry  
announcing the Presidential delegation to the  
inauguration of Jorge Sampaio as President  
of Portugal

#### ***Released March 8***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-  
retary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by Treasury  
Secretary Robert Rubin, Labor Secretary  
Robert Reich, National Economic Adviser  
Laura D'Andrea Tyson, and Council of Eco-  
nomic Advisers Chair Joseph Stiglitz on the  
economy

Egypt-U.S. joint announcement on the Sum-  
mit of the Peacemakers in Egypt on March  
13

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### **Acts Approved by the President**

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#### ***Approved March 5***

H.R. 1718 / Public Law 104-112  
To designate the United States courthouse  
located at 197 South Main Street in Wilkes-  
Barre, Pennsylvania, as the "Max Rosen  
United States Courthouse"

#### ***Approved March 7***

H.R. 2196 / Public Law 104-113  
National Technology Transfer and Advance-  
ment Act of 1995